SATURDAY JULY 12 1997

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Prison service considers turning military bases into jails



By RICHARD FORD HOME CORRESPONDENT

SIX SITES owned by the Ministry of Defence are being considered for conversion into emergency accom-modation to cater for the rising prison population, which is threat-ening to engulf jails in England and

The bases, either disused or about to be closed by the Ministry, have been identified as having the potential to be speedily turned into jails holding low risk offenders.

Richard Tilt. Director-General of

day that the service was reconsidering former military bases for housing criminals as the prison population reached a record 62,067.

The latest figure is only 56l short of the absolute capacity of the 135 jails in England and Wales. With the population rising by 300 a week, prisons will be full before the end of the month and the service would be forced into putting offenders into police cells at a cost of up to £2,000 a week for each prisoner.

Mr Tilt told The Times: "We are looking again at Ministry of Defence sites to see whether there are any that are suitable. They are our

preferred option." He would not disclose the sites under consideration although most are in the north of England where population pressures are at their greatest.

It is thought the service wants two sites to hold about a total of 1,000 inmates and relieve population pressures which are restricting regimes in jails. But any proposal to convert a former military base would meet strong opposition from 'not in my backyard" campaigners who delayed earlier proposals for emergency accommodation.

The service dropped plans to convert a former RAF base at

Finningley near Doncaster in south Yorkshire at the end of last year after opposition from the local Labour-controlled council. It had wanted to take an I8-month lease on the base to house up to 300 low risk

Category C prisoners.

Mr Tilt also said the Prison Service is to fight to overturn opposition to another of its proposals for emergency prison space. It is to appeal to the Department of the Environment to be allowed to convert a former Pontin's holiday camp, Middleton Towers, into a jail for 700 inmates.

Prisoners are also being affected

by the population pressures with an estimated 10,800 doubled up in cells designed for one inmate and offendmatter of weeks. ers being bused from the North to

the South to make way for prisoners held in jail on remand. Mr Tilt said the number of prisoners doubled up would reach 12.000 by November when the overall jail population is estimated to reach 64,000. However, the service is wary of relying on official estimates as the figures keep being overtaken by the numbers arriving in jail. In September 1996 it was estimated that the number in jail

would reach 63,100 by March next

expects will be reached within a

Mark Healy, chairman of the Prison Officers Association, spoke of the dangers facing the system because of overcrowding. "The service has a responsibility for the safety of its staff and inmates and to continue in this vein means some-

thing is going to give." He urged Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, to take emergency action and order the executive release of some prisoners, as occurred in the

Sex war

in sport

spreads to

angling

By Michael Hornsby

COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT WAR between the sexes has broken out in the world of fishing with a broadside from one of Britain's leading an-glers, against the distracting

and inhibiting presence of women on the riverbank. Growing numbers of women are cramping the style of male anglers who no longer feel able to swear freely when

they lose a fish or to answer

the same week that the Coronation Street actor, Johnny

Briggs, outraged women golfers by calling them "cock-roaches" who should be

confined to all-female clubs.

In both cases the suggestion

is that women do not understand, or are unwilling to

adapt to, the culture of male-

dominated sports and are

spoiling the fun for the true

participants. Des Taylor, who

Continued on page 2, col 5

Women anglers, page 4

Leading article, page 23

This cri de coeur comes in

calls of nature, he claims.

Loyalists condemn parades 'sell-out'

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

MODERATE Orangemen fa- Newry were cancelled, a paced a backlash from hardline Unionists yesterday after can-celling or redirecting four of today's July 12 parades.

Dissidents within the Orange Order condemned the gesture as a sell-out to the IRA. and urged Unionists to pull out of peace talks.

The Belfast County Grand Lodge, whose members signed up to the agreement on Thursday night, issued a statement yesterday "deploring the fact" that one of its lodges would not be marching today. It said: "We call on all Unionist politicians to unite and immediately withdraw from the 'talks process' until such times as our Government deals once and for all with Roman Catholic republicanism and the oppression of the British people of Ulster."

The Belfast Lodge did not criticise its district lodge in the Ballynafeigh area of south Belfast, which agreed not to march along the nationalist Lower Ormeau Road this morning. Instead, it blamed the Government for failing to provide "adequate security against the threat of pan-

nationalist violence". The furore erupted after four lodges agreed to restrict or abandon their parades. Marches along the Lower Ormeau Road and through

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rade through the centre of Londonderry parade was moved to Limavady, and the one in Armagh will avoid the Catholic Shambles area. The decision came after

Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC Chief Constable, told the Orangemen that there was a serious risk of terrorism if the marches went ahead, and that thousands of republicans would be bused into the four areas to oppose the parades.

The announcements were praised across the political spectrum yesterday, including a grudging word of welcome from Gerry Adams, the presi-dent of Sinn Fein, who said: "I acknowledge the significance of the decisions taken by the Orange Order which have created a breathing space."

The decisions also transformed relations between nationalists and Unionists. In Newtownbutler, Co Fermanagh, the two sides reached an agreement after months of deadlock over a parade through the village today.

While the security forces

breathed a sigh of relief that serious violence would be averted, the Orange Order leadership was left grappling with an internal revolt. Joel Patton of the hardline Spirit of Drumcree group, led the criti-cism. He said: "The decision shows the complete incompetency and the cowardice of the leadership of the Orange Order. I believe that either these men are removed and replaced or the Orange Order itself will be destroyed."

He urged Orangemen to turn up at the site of the four marches today, saying: "Don't acquiesce in this. Make your feelings known because these people are betraying you."

The Rev Ian Paisley, the leader of the Democratic Unionists, condemned the Orange offer as a "declaration of surrender", but said that his party would leave the multiparty talks only if the Ulster Unionists did the same David Continued on page 2, col 7

By ROBIN YOUNG

A REAL life Dylan the Rabbit, whose

existence was one long ride on The

Magic Roundabout, came to a tragic



Angling kinship among the sexes — Nicola Church, England's leading woman fly-fisher, with Terry Hall, left, and Graham Thompson

Blunkett puts student debts on sale to raise £3bn

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

DAVID BLUNKETT, the Secretary. Education launched the Labour Government's first privatisation yesterday with a surprise Bill designed to raise £3.1 billion from the sale of debt from student loans.

The scheme, first mooted by the Conservatives after plans for a wholesale privatisation of the Student Loans Company had foundered, had been halted by the election. But Mr Blunkett said the sale was a "critical element" in the maintenance of existing spending

Officials insisted that there would be "no negative consequences" for borrowers. The terms of existing loans will be unchanged, but the Bill leaves open the possibility of the purchasers introducing new and more aggressive collec-

tion arrangements. More than £2 billion of debt will be offered for sale, with another £1 billion expected to accumulate in the coming year. Twenty finance companies and banks have ex-

pressed interest. Experts were taken by surprise by the announcement, although re-ceipts of £1.6 billion were included in the Budget. There had been no mention of a Bill in the Queen's Speech.

Ian Crawford, a member of a team of academics at the London School of Economics specialising in student loans. said the move amounted to a "fire sale" which would undervalue the debt. He had expected the Government to wait for this month's report on higher education by Sir Ron Dearing before taking decisions on student finance.

The previous government had intended to proceed with the sale using its original legislation. But Mr Blunkett said he had acted to "put on a clearer footing" his power to provide incentives and safeguard both taxpayers and the buyers. He expected the Bill to

be non controversial. Nicholas Barr, who led the LSE team, said the Government might only recoup half the face value of the debt while

Stoned rabbit goes to the dogs on his one bad trip

the repayment system was in place. He published a pamphlet this week claiming that a sale could release an annual "pot of gold" of £1.6 billion for investment in education if repayment was linked to National Insurance.

Graduates are allowed to defer repayment if their earnings fall below £15,000. Almost half of those with loans were in this position last year. Dr Barr said: "Going ahead

in a hasty way while there are such high levels of deferment amounts to a waste of taxpayers' money. If the private sector was assured of a better repayment flow, the price could be much higher."

University vice-chancellors said they had no objection to the sale, as long as future proceeds went into the higher education system. But a spokeswoman said there would be concern if the system was fragmented and graduates had to deal with a different lender each year.

Student debts rise, page 9

Times narrows sales gap

THE gap between full-price sales of The Times and The Daily Telegraph has narrowed to fewer than 30,000. according to figures from newspaper industry auditors. The Daily Telegraph's average daily news-stand sales were 710,295 in June, against 680,494 for The Times, the Audit Bureau of Circulations

said yesterday. The bureau's figures also show that The Daily Telegraph relied on cut-price sales for more than 25 per cent of its net circulation in June, the corresponding figure for The Times was less than 2 per cent. It is the first time that the bureau has published figures for full-price and cut-price sales separately. The distinction is important because advertisers base their rates on full-price sales.

Gay clergy row

Homosexuality is threatening to split the Church of England and the general synod opening in York this weekend faces protests, demonstrations and "outings" over the issue. A survey is expected to show that many bishops are turning a blind eye to practising

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end when he was too laid back to cannabis for breakast, lunch and tea. escape the jaws of a voracious Staffordwas a lovely creature, a bit like Dylan He even indulged in late night pot shire bull terrier. of The Magic Roundabout. He would sessions with his hippy owner. Brown grew cannabis alongside the M5 in Huntworth. Somerset and fed it to The story of the latter-day Dylan, a eat cannabis like grass, get high, crash rabbit so permanently stoned that he was known as Bonkers, was told in out for a while, then come back for more ... sometimes he would get Sedgemoor magistrates' court, in the Bonkers because it was poor quality Somerset town of Bridgwater, when the animal's owner, Gillian Brown, 32 officials but denied that it was cruel to

and unemployed, appeared on drug charges. Bonkers, the magistrates

heard, was a "gentle, peace-loving"

rabbit, normal in everything except his

diet. He turned up his nose at carrots, year's probation with £40 costs. lettuce and dandelion leaves and ate After the hearing, she said: "Bonkers zonked out and freeze and just stare into space. I tried to give cannabis to

give her six-month-old rabbit canabis. She admitted possessing cannabis my dog and hamster as well, but they didn't take to it." After the case, Robin Walker, a worth £350 and a small amount of amphetamines, and was ordered to do 50 hours' community service and one

member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, said: "The cannabis diet would not have done any harm although it could have affected his memory. But then rabbits are not too hot on poetry anyway."

Brown said Bonkers died after reacting too slowly" to the terrier. He was so "spaced out" that he virtually allowed himself to be eaten alive. "It was his only bad trip."



TRAVEL.



Molyneaux behind decision by Orangemen

By Nicholas Watt, Chief Ireland Correspondent

LORD Molyneaux of Killead, the former leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, came out of retirement to convince Orangemen to make one of the most momentous decisions in their 202-year history.

The "dull dog" of Ulster politics, as Lord Molyneaux once dubbed himself, played a central role at a lengthy meeting in Belfast on Thursday which led to the dramatic announcement about four contentious Orange parades.

Lord Molyneaux, 76, who stood down as an MP at the general election after retiring as party leader two years ago, gently explained to the Orangemen the consequences if the marches went ahead on the Lower Ormeau Road in Belfast and through the centres of Londonderry, Armagh

city and Newry. Sources close to the talks said that he warned the Orangemen that republican terrorists would unleash a wave of violence if they went ahead. He pointed out that Orangemen would outflank republicans and win worldwide praise if they made a conciliatory gesture on the marches.

The softly-spoken former Unionist leader spelt out his message during a day-long meeting at the headquarters of the Orange Order in Belfast on Thursday. He ran through options with leaders of Northern treland's seven county lodges. His closest ally was John McCrea, the Order's Grand Secretary.

Lord Molyneaux's message about the terrorist threat was reinforced by Ronnie Flana-gan, the Chief Constable of the RUC, who joined the talks after lunch. His attendance was meant to be a secret, but a BBC television crew who happened to be having lunch in a cafe next to Orange House managed to record his arrival. Orange Order sources said that they were left in no doubt

of the very serious threat they

would face if the marches

THE EDINBURGH RESIDENCE

went ahead. Up to 5,000

the Lower Ormeau Road. while thousands of nationalists would mass in the centre of Londonderry to oppose the city's Orange parade.

Lord Molyneaux and Mr McCrea won over sceptics by outlining the huge benefits of agreeing not to march through the contentious Roman Catholic areas. One Orange source said: "They talked about the tremendous PR images that we would send round the world. It would also pull the rug from under the nationalist residents groups which oppose our marches."

Later, seven county lodges met individually to assess their options. Just before midnight the four lodges, which were due to hold the most controversial marches during today's July 12 celebrations. issued their statements saying that they would either cancel or re-route their marches.

The statements all made clear that the threat of terrorism was the greatest factor which convinced them to change their plans.

Lord Molyneaux is highly respected throughout the Orange Order, of which he is a former Imperial Grand Master. Many Unionists also remember his calming influence during the 16 heetic years that he led the Ulster Unionists.

Hardline Orangemen. who tend to be based at the lower district level, did not attend Thursday's meetings. The Co Armagh delegation, for example, included the Rev William Bingham and Dennis Watson, who are moderates and would have agreed to waive their right to hold last Sunday's Drumcree parade. Harold Gracey, the Portadown District Master, who refused to compromise over Drumcree, did not attend Thursday's

Lord Molyneaux remained typically self-effacing yesterday and praised the County Grand Masters for their "great courage".



A sculpture of a dove of peace has been put up on Ormeau bridge in Belfast

Blair and Ahern pledge on peace

TONY BLAIR had a 20minute telephone conversation with the Irish Prime Minister yesterday to discuss the decision by Orangemen to cancel and reroute parades (Audrey Magee writes). Mr Blair thanked Bertie

Ahern for his statement, in which Mr Ahern said the Orangemen's decision was "a positive gesture by the Orange Order and the Government believes that it deserves an equally positive response from nationalists".

The two men said they were determined to keep the peace

process moving and would stay in touch during the

There was widespread relief in the Irish Republic that a feared weekend of violence had been averted. Sean Brady, Roman Catholic Primate of All Ireland, said the Orangemen's decision was a victory for courage and

John Bruton, the leader of the opposition Fine Gael party, said the decision to reroute was a mark of self-confidence and strategic thinking within the Unionist community.

Parades backlash

Continued from page ! Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, said: "I think the matter needs consideration, but I am not going to be precipitous." He added that he had mixed feelings about the Orange Order's gesture. "I am quite sure they do not want their decision to be taken as a permanent decision. It is a purely temporary gesture that has been made in order to deny Sinn Fein/IRA the opportunity to cause mayhem. His comments underlined the deep unease within the

Ulster Unionist Party over the parades offer. However, Jef-frey Donaldson, the UUP MP for Lagan Valley who is also an Assistant Grand Master of the Orange Order, said: "I hope the people of Northern Ireland will have seen the Orange Order is acting in the best interests of Northern

Attention will now turn to a series of small Orange parades due to pass through nationalist areas today. Clashes could erupt when Orange men atempt to march through Bellaghy, Co Londonderry, and Dunloy, Co Antrim.

NEWS IN BRIEF Firms with bad debts

to be listed.

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Companies that delay settling their commercial debts will be named in a "table of shame" so that small firms can avoid doing business with them. The table will be compiled by the Federation of Small Busi nesses with the support of the Department of Trade and Industry. It is expected to give the payment records of all 18,000 companies whose details are held at Companies House, and will be available from the middle of next year.

The table is part of a ackage of measures planned by the Government to stop late payment of commercia debts. The DTI will publish within the next three weeks its proposals for the statutory payment of interest on debts which are not settled within a certain time. More than £15 billion is estimated to be owed in business debts.

MP on benefit as wife worked

The first Sinn Fein member of the Irish Parliament in almost 80 years took dole money he was not entitled to, it was disclosed yesterday. Ca-oimhghin O Caolain, 43, who pledged to fight sleaze in Irish politics, claimed £20,000 unemployment benefit for his dependants while his wife was working. He is repaying the money from his parlia-mentary salary of £34,700. The benefit was claimed from 1986 to 1991 after he left a bank to work full-time for the party.

Fischler offers beef ban hope

Franz Fischier, the European Agriculture Commissioner, held out hopes of an end to the ban on the export of British beef yesterday. At a meeting with 200 farmers at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Showground at Builth Wells, Powys, Herr Fischler said the latest proposals being considered by the Government that meat from cattle born after a certain date should be export-ed once more could offer "the way forward out of the beef

Sailing home in triumph

An engineer, a carpet fitter and a psychiatrist are due to sail into Portsmouth today after completing a 4,100-mile voyage across the Atlantic in a tiny open-topped powerboat. Alan Priddy, 43, Steve Lloyd, 39, and Jan Falkowski, 36, set out from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, three weeks ago on board the 24st Spirit of Portsmouth. Their fourth crew member had to pull out of the journey in Iceland because of seasickness and

BA wants talks with strike union

By Philip Bassett and Stephen Farrell

BRITISH Airways looked set for talks with cabin crew last night after an acrimonious 72hour strike.

Bob Ayling, the airline's chief executive, said the end of the first three days of dispute at barn today presented an opportunity for negotiations. He told the Transport and General Workers' Union general secretary Bill Morris he wanted to examine the union's alternative proposals to achieve the E42 million sav-

ings that BA is seeking in its

cabin crew operation. Fresh strike action is now impossible for at least a week because employment law requires the union to give seven days' notice. Mr Ayling yesterday wrote to the TGWU proposing a "way forward" to resolve the dispute with the TGWU's cabin crew union Bassa. He said: "I believe the end of the Bassa strike really does present an opportunity for peace. I believe we both have a responsibility to seize that opportunity. If our discussions show that your propos-als can deliver £42 million in a realistic way, we would be happy to sit down with you and Cabin Crew 89 to see whether there is a deal, acceptable to all parties, that is better than the current agreement."

The move followed a call by Mr Morris for a "pause for peace". He indicated the union was ready for talks on both the cabin crew dispute and a parallel dispute with ground staff catering workers, who voted on Thursday to reject the

company's offer.

Mr Morris was hopeful about the talks: "We are not anticipating failure. We are planning for success. What we want to do is find solutions to two problems."

BA hopes to fly at least 75 per cent of its long-haul weekend flights from Heathrow. and around half its European

THE Crossword Championship 1997

The Times Crossword Championship 1997 will now take place at the first Mind Sports Olympiad, at the Royal Festival Hall, London, on Sunday August 24 between 3pm and 6.30pm.

This year's championship will be in a new format. It will be launched with a qualifying puzzle which will be published in The Times next Thursday, July 17. Readers who solve this qualifier will then be invited to the Royal Festival Hall to compete in further rounds for the chance to become this year's champion.

THE MIND SPORTS OLYMPIAD



Royal Festival Hall, London, August 18-24, 1997

SEE THE QUALIFYING CROSSWORD IN THE TIMES ON THURSDAY, JULY 17

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Sex war in sports

Continued from page I writes in Angling Times, Britain's biggest-selling fishing paper, says in the latest issue that if women want to play men's games they should not expect the rules to be changed to accommodate them.

The first thing that happens is that the rest of us men have to watch where we water our horses' so we don't insult the women", he writes. "I for one don't want to bump into a woman answering the call of nature in the bushes - and I'm sure women would feel exactly the same about me."

He adds: "Most men swear and one of the places we do it is on the bank with our mates. An example might be a big fish leaping out of the water right over your bait. You don't say golly gosh, wasn't that a large fish', you say *** me did you see the size of that?".

Mr Taylor, whose wife Margaret does not fish (she is one of Mr Briggs's golf-playing "cockroaches"), particularly objects to women who accompany spouses or partners to

the bank, often with noisy children in tow.

noyed by our swearing but think nothing of us poor blokes having to listen to them screaming in sexual delight inside their bivouacks with their boyfriends." Anne Pickering, who has represented England in the

world coarse fishing championships for ladies, says attitudes like Mr Taylor's are not uncommon. "Even if you are a serious angler. you quite often hear comments from men like Oh. my God, they are allowing women on the riverbank now'. Women swear too if they lose a big fish. Men do not like it if they are drawn against you and get beaten."

Nicola Church, England's leading female fly-fisher, said: urinate into a small bucket if the need arises during a long session, but that does not worry me or them."

Women anglers, page 4 Leading article, page 23

MP chases bag snatcher after traffic iam theft

By Stephen Farrell and James Landale

CHERYL GILLAN, the Tory trade spokeswoman, chased a thief along a dual carriageway yesterday after he snatched her handbag while she was caught in traffic.

Mrs Gillan, 45, MP for Chesham and Amersham,

was left shocked but unhurt after the thief opened the unlocked passenger door of her M-registration Land Rover Discovery and took the

bag from the seat. She leapt from the car and gave chase along the A40 in Hammersmith, west London, an area notorious for thefts from motorists, while other drivers called police. The thief escaped over a fence.

Mrs Gillan said last night that she had left herself vulnerable to attack by failing to lock the doors, "I was stuck in traffic and this young man just opened up the door and was away with my bag. It had everything in it, my purse, my keys, my cards and my House of Commons pass.

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 "I slammed the gears into neutral and chased him down the road. It became apparent



Gillan: had not locked the passenger door

that I wasn't going to catch him so I came back to the car and called 999 on my mobile

telephone.
"I was not hurt but it was a horrible thing to happen. It is a good lesson to women driving to lock their doors and hide their handbags.

The attack happened shortly before 4pm as Mrs Gillan was on her way from the Commons to present an Investors in People award at Chalfout Community College. She immediately contacted her constituency agent to cancel the appointment because she felt in "no fit state to

The bag was later found by a member of the public. Her keys and security pass were inside but the thief had taken the credit cards and all the cash she had withdrawn for a weekend with her mother.

Mrs Gillan, formerly marketing director of an international accounting firm, would not reveal how much cash she had lost, but said: "The thief

will have a good weekend."

She was interviewed by police before driving back to her flat in Living back to her flat in Living back. Richard Hill, said later. When she telephoned me she was very shaken and crying, as anyone would be. She usually leaves her handbag on the passenger seat but puts the central locking on. She admitted she had not done so this

"Her first thought was for her constituents and that was why she called me, to let the college know she could not attend. I think the thief simply saw a woman on her own in a fairly new vehicle and carried out an opportunistic crime."



Commander Jonathan Maughan, of the Royal Naval College, greets Spanish dancers before their performance in the opening ceremony of the Greenwich and Docklands International Festival. The welcome marked the first time the public was allowed within the college precinct

Poll-rigging civil servant keeps her job

By VALERIE ELLIOTT WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE woman civil servant who tried to swing the Radio 4 Today programme personality of the year poll in favour of Tony Blair is to keep her job at the Ministry of Agriculture.

Jules Hurry, 40, is to return to her

£35,000-a-year-post in the autumn after facing an internal disciplinary inquiry.

A ministry spokesman confirmed last night that a letter had been sent to Ms Hurry last week and that she would be returning to work in the autumn. Ms Hurry was unavailable last night. She and her husband, Alan Griffiths, who has worked occasionally for the Liberal Democrats, live in

unpaid leave from November last year to May to help care for her husband, who has been receiving treatment at a London hospital but during that time was working for the Labour Party's election campaign headquarters at Millbank and who walks with a stick. The Conservative Party sense they have found another chink in the Government's armour and are to

Nigel Evans, a Tory frontbencher, said: "It is pointless Tony Blair saying that he does not believe in the politicisation of the Civil Service if at the same time someone who is a civil servant and was working at Millbank Tower for the Labour Party is allowed back to work in the Ministry of

demand a full explanation from

deserves to be told the results of the investigation into this internal affair."

He said last night that if answers were not forthcoming he would table questions to Mr Blair and to Dr Cunningham. Mr Evans, Tory MP for Ribble Valley, had raised the question of Ms Hurry before the Commons public service committee in the last Parliament and demanded to know if she was in breach of her contract as an impartial civil servant.

Sir Robin assured him the matter was being taken very seriously in Whitehall and an investigation was taking place. Last night a Cabinet Office spokesman would not elaborate on the matter. This is a matter for MAFF. Sir Robin has no locus on this." Whitehall officials launched an imthat a civil servant on leave had been working three days a week for the Labour Party at their Millbank Tower headquarters. The inquiry was ordered internally by Richard Packer, permanent secretary at the ministry.

Her name appeared on the top of a letter faxed to Labour activists urging them to send in nominations for Mr Blair for the Radio 4 Today programme's Personaloty of the Year feature and to persuade six others to follow suit. Mr Blair was subsequently disqualified by the BBC from taking part in the radio ballot and the affair was deeply embarrassing for the Labour Party. The party said the letter to activists had been written by a junior member of staff and that they would never have authorised such a tactic.

Juvenile offenders get taste of Maori values

By STEWART TENDLER CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A TEENAGE thief yesterday became the first young offender in the country to begin a pilot scheme based on Maori family values.

Under the scheme, being tested in Hampshire, young offenders attend a family group conference which can include their victims, social workers, police and members of their family, including not only parents but siblings, uncles and aunts. After the conference the offender and his family are left to decide what he should do to make up for the crime. This is then offered to the victim and the scheme's coordinators.

Offenders qualify for the scheme on their second offence when they would otherwise face a court appearance. They have to accept that they com-mitted the crime; and, if their family refuses to attend, they will then face court.

The scheme is based on a system in New Zealand and developed from Maori customs. The Maoris use the pressure and responsibilities of families to keep young offenders from further trouble. The scheme is being tested for two years in the Basingstoke area and two juveniles will take part each month under the auspices of the Hampton Trust, a charity for reforming young offenders.

Ros Cassy, of the trust, said penalties under the scheme could include the young oftender selling a personal possession to get money to compensate the victim. The youth could do work for the victim or take up a sporting or community project to keep them out of trouble

Ms Cassy said that sometimes families felt they could not cope but the conference could offer them support to deal with the child.

Bowles " over crash

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH AND STEWART TENDLER

CAMILIA Parker Bowles will not be prosecuted over her involvement in a car crash in a lane close to Highgrove, the home of the Prince of Wales. Police said last night that there was insufficient evidence to bring charges in connection with the collision, after which Mrs Parker Bowles was accused of fleeing the scene.

Mrs Parker Bowles and the other driver, Carolyn Melville-Smith, were not seriously hurt in the incident near Malmesbury, Wiltshire, on June 11. Miss Melville-Smith's car was badly damaged and in the aftermath of the accident she said that Mrs Parker Bowles had appeared like a missile" and then left the immediate scene while she was trapped in her Volvo

Mrs Parker Bowles ex-plained that she had left her Ford Mondeo to find a location where she could gef a signal on her mobile phone to call for help to the police and the Prince of Wales.

A report on the case was sent to the Crown Prosecution Service by Wiltshire police but lawyers said no charges could be brought Miss Melville-Smith, 53, an interior designer, said last night that she had not wanted Mrs Parker Bowles to be prosecuted. "So long as I am not left out of pocket, I am happy to let the

No charge Pigeons cleared The Queen for Parker Over death of honours over death of cathedral owl

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

PATHOLOGISTS investigating the death of the eagle owl that recently made its home in St Paul's Cathedral, have discovered that Paula, as the bird was named, was in fact Paul.

The post mortem examination at London Zoo yesterday also revealed that the owl's two-week residence in the cathedral was a swansong after two years swooping round the capital.

Contrary to the suspicions of cathedral workers that Paula, or Paul, had been poisoned by a dodgy pigeon or subjected to foul play, the examination revealed it had contracted a bacterial wasting disease and had been ill for several weeks.



Paula, which turned out

The bird stood 20 inches tall with a 5ft wingspan and appeared to be feeding well on pigeons and mice since nest-ing in the rafters of the

However its body was spotted on Monday morning lying face down on a ledge by office

Yesterday Andrew Cunningham, a veterinary pathologist from the Zoological Society who performed the autopsy, said the owl had died of necrobacillosis, a bacterial infection that causes tissue to die, and was thin and dehy-

"The animal had probably been sick for days, perhaps weeks, given the evidence of long-term spleen infection. It is impossible to say where the infection had come from although necrobacillosis is very unusual in birds."

As for the confusion over gender, a spokeswoman for London Zoo said it was an easy mistake to make. The RSPCA inspector who had named the bird Paula, she said, had had to do it from a

"Owls and birds of prey are very difficult to sex because they don't have obvious genitalia. You can sometimes tell by their plumage but really you have to look surgically. Female eagle owls are usually bigger but we just didn't get close enough to work out its

Dunblane teachers

By Shirley English

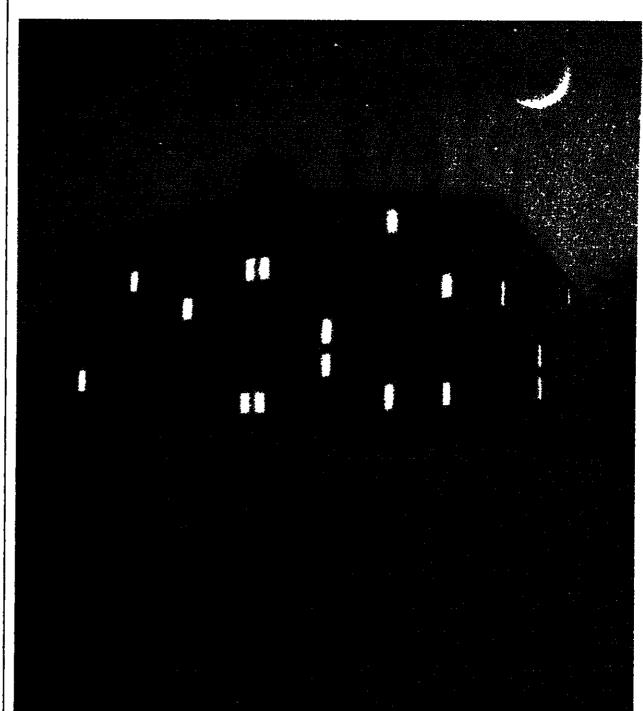
THE Queen honoured three teachers yesterday for their bravery in the Dunblane massacre. Rod Mayor accepted an award on behalf of his wife, Gwen, who was killed with 16 primary school children

Mr Mayor and the two teachers who survived, Eileen Harrild, 44, and Mary Blake. 50, received the Queen's Commendation for Bravery, a silver laurel leaf broach, in a ceremony at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh. Mrs Harrild, a PE teacher, and Mrs Blake, a special needs teacher, were both badly injured in the gun attack and have not returned to

The three, accompanied by their families, had tea and chatted with the Queen after a 40-minute private audience. They said later that the parents of the children who died were uppermost in their

Mrs Harrild, who was shot four times in the arms and chest by Thomas Hamilton, said: "I just wish we were receiving this award for a different reason.

Rod Mayor was accompanied by his two daughters, Ester, 22, and Deborah, 20, his wife's sister, Joan Bedford, and her parents Edna and Ken Hodgson, from Penrith. He said he felt both privileged and honoured. "Gwen has been recognised for what we always knew she was."



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Bare-breasted memorial to designer of Cutty Sark 'is over the top' from Robert Burns's poem Tam Scott Sutherland, the Scottish artist.

By Shirley English

A VOLUPTUOUS statue unveiled yesterday in memory of the designer of the tea clipper Cutty Sark has sparked a hitter row in the village of his birth. Villagers in Inverbervie, near Aberdeen, are outraged that the bare-breasted memorial to Hercules Linton has replaced a more dignified statue which they commis-sioned and paid for by public subscrip-

tion 30 years ago.

Protesters carrying placards gathered for the unveiling ceremony yesterday at the entrance to the village, casting a shadow over the start of the Tall Ships.

The new painted wooden statue is-based on the tea dipper's original figurehead of the bare-breasted witch Race in Aberdeen.

o'Shanter. But villagers, who have formed the Save Our Linton Memorial group, said the figure was too wellendowed and gaudy for their liking. "It belongs in Blackpool Tower," said Alistair Reid, 72, from Inverbervie, who was involved in raising money for the original statue in the 1960s. "It is just obscene and a very vulgar thing to put in front of our children. It's a travesty to the memory of Hercules Linton."

The row began two months ago when council-funded Gourdon and Inverbervie Village Enterprise (GIVE) decided to replace the original fibre glass statue, which was showing signs of wear and vandalism. The old memorial was based on a sculpture in the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich by

Villagers raised around £2,000 to commission it and it was unveiled in 1969 by the yachtsman Sir Francis Chichester.

Mr Reid said that about two months ago it was removed without consultation and transferred to the headquarters of the Aberdeen Sea Cadet Corps. "That was our statue. It was paid for by public subscription and no-one had the right to take it away," he said. Villagers are now considering legal action to have the statue returned.

Yesterday Jim Leacy, spokesman for the GIVE group, defended the new statue, but said he was going to resign. This is what the figurehead looked like of the ship, I have been accosted in the street over this. It has been very upsetting," he said.

JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

we pupi

Farmers on alert for potato beetles

By Audrey Magee

IRISH agriculture officials are on full alert after Colorado beetles were found in a shipment of potatoes from Italy. The 45 beetles, also known as the potato bug, are the largest number found in Ireland for a decade.

The orange and yellow striped insects attack potato leaves and the females deposit up to 500 bright yellow eggs on the underside. The Agriculture Department said that, i left underected, they would cause enormous damage to the £75 million annual potato

The department has implemented emergency proce-dures to examine shipments entering the country. The government has preserved the beetles from the Italian cargo to circulate to potato farmers unfamiliar with the insect's shape and size.

The beetle, native to the mid-west United States, originally fed on a wild plant in the potato family. It transferred its allegiance to the cultivated notato planted by settlers.

Measures for open government delayed

Valerie Elliott on snags facing ministers over freedom of information

postpone measures to increase freedom of information because of the complexity of the issues. A White Paper which it had been hoped would be pub-lished for the summer recess will not now appear until

Among the difficulties are deciding which public authori-ties should be covered by the egislation. Under proposals being considered by ministers, the BBC and the private utility companies could come within its scope. Ministers have also become bogged down in the question of whether the new law could also apply to police. fire services and any private company which was contracted to do public work.

Reports that senior civil servants have blocked the proposals are wide of the mark although there are apparently some reservations about the cost. But it seems that policy advice from civil servants to ministers will remain outside the legislation. David Clark, Chancellor of

the Duchy of Lancaster, in an interview in next week's edition of The Stakeholder, a public service magazine, says: Any factual or analytical evidence will be made available. but when it comes to advice. I don't want to drive it underground. He fears that officials would avoid putting

advice on paper and that more decisions would be made and advice given on the telephone. Dr Clark also indicated that



Clark: unlikely to release

he wishes to avoid protracted legal disputes over the release of information and wanted an officer of Parliament, proba-bly the Ombudsman, to decide appeal cases. "I regard this as an issue of human rights and [think the final appeal ought to be to the representatives of the people and not to the

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg QC, who chairs the ministerial group looking at the proposals, writing in The Times today, hints at the difficulties facing ministers and defends their wish for more time. He makes clear, however, that the Government does want to legislate for freedom of information and says that, rather than taking a existing code of conduct into statute, ministers were en-gaged in a "root-and-branch"

review of every issue.

Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, also confirmed yesterday the Government's commitment to a Freedom of

that there were hurdles still to overcome. Another difficulty facing the group is how to track government documenta-tion which exists on paper and as electronic messages. Senior officials in Whitehall

yesterday were irritated that they were being accused of blocking the legislation. They believe that ministers should never have promised to produce a White Paper on such a difficult area within such a narrow timescale.

Ministers themselves realised that they did not have enough time to consider the issues while the devolution White Papers were also about to be published.

The ministerial group met for the first time on Thursday and decided that they wanted to ensure the legislation was workable and also that it fitted in with political expectations. The legislation is still planned for inclusion in the next parliamentary session.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, page 22 Leading article, page 23



The Queen Mother, then Duchess of York, trout fishing in New Zealand in 1927

Feminine angle irresistible bait for male fish

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

WELL-known - and often the growing number of women who enjoy casting a

Two of Britain's most doughty nonagenarians. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, who is 97 next month, and Dame Barbara Cartland. who was 96 pn Wednesday, have long enjoyed the sport. Until recently the Queen Mother fished during her annual stay at Balmoral.

Dame Barbara was for many years a prolific salmon fisher. On her honeymoon in Sutherland in 1927, she caught her first salmon, a 14-pounder. and three lesser fish on her first attempt, and a hobby was

But she said yesterday that a little angling was all right for women but it was better left to men. "Women are such a nuisance. They say, 'I must do this and this and this.' They are doing everything, they are becoming men, and their children are neglected."

Fiona Armstrong, the for- tered catches.

has written a beginner's guide Fishing. Dame Diana Rigg. recently said that her time spent upon a Scottish estate during her marriage to a landowner had persuaded her that women's sex makes them attractive to their prev. "Their condition makes them extra pheromonic and huge male salmon hurl themselves on to

their hook because of it." Frances Shand Kydd, the mother of Diana, Princess of Wales, has been an angler for 20 years. She said that she had only ever caught male fish.

and plenty of those. In their book Salmon and Women, the Feminine Angle, Peter Behan and Wilma Paterson tell of Lady Graham. mother of the Marquess of Montrose, who was an expert fisherwoman and would often catch fish while the men's lines remained empty. But her name never appeared in the estate game book, which regis-

murdered man held by police

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THE wife daughter and a son of a man murdered nine months ago have been arrested. The three, and a male employee, are being questioned about the killing of Geoffrey Leeming, 63, who was stabbed to death in his garage in Haxby, near York. Mr Leeming, a former sol-dier who ran a drains business, died after he went to check a lock while his wife, Jackie, 55, watched television. He was stabbed several times in the chest with a seven-inch. serrated kitchen knife which

near by.

Detectives interviewed more than 1,000 people. In May Mrs Leeming appeared on GMTV and publicity denied suggestions that she was linked to the killing.

This year Mrs Leeming and

was found on a grass verge

This year Mrs Leeming and her daughter. Jane. 30. took over the Marcia pub in the near by village of Bishop-thorpe. Police arrived at the pub at about 7.30am yesterday and left with the women shortly afterwards.

At the same time her son Stephen, 32, was arrested at the farm where he lives out-side York. The fourth person, a 37-year-old employee of the family business, who has not been named, was detained on Thursday night. They were being questioned at police stations in York and Selby.

Soon after her husband's death Mrs Leeming, accompanied by her family, told a press conference: "My busband was cruelly murdered. Whoever did it has taken my life and destroyed the life of his two sons and daughter, too." Her other son, Neil, was not arrested and was yesterday at the pub. He refused to

Family of | Golf club women keep men off par

A BATTLE of the sexes at a ladies' golf club where almost half the members are men has ended in a truce. The men are celebrating after being grant-ed voting rights but the women, who have held sway since 1894, remain in control of the clubhouse.

Both sexes enjoy the same facilities and drink in the same bar at Wirral Ladies' Golf Club, near Birkenhead. But until now the 190 men, who pay the same £400-a-year fees, have been denied a say in the club's affairs.

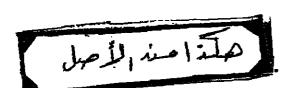
The women gave way at an emergency general meeting after the men objected to the arrangement before the local licensing justices. Although they have allowed the men voting rights, they have enshrined the ascendancy of women in the club's articles of association. The club will con-tinue to be called Wirral Ladies' Golf Club; the captain will always be a woman; the chairman of the management committee will also be a woman and lady members will enjoy numerical suprema-

cy on the committee. Susan Headford, the secretary and manager, said: "We have structured the new artides of association to ensure the traditions, so precious to us, will always be retained."

The Wirral club was formed by Herbert Potter, who built a nine-hole course for his wife, Gillie, and the "leisured ladies of the Wirral". Another nine holes was added as membership grew and in 1928 the women bought the land and formed a limited company. The women believe that they have conceded enough to retain the club's licence. The case will be heard by Wirral magistrates on Wednesday.

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تصكدًا من المذمل

Schools may pay £1 per pupil for access to Internet

September start is planned, Christine Buckley reports

SCHOOLS could get unlimited use of the Internet for as little as £1 per pupil per year under plans drawn up by the Director-General of Telecommunications Don Cruickshank, the industry regulator, yesterday set out a pricing scheme for schools that reduces by 80 per cent the cost of access to ordinary

The regime, which would mean a charge of £665 per school per year, means much cheaper telephone calls to the Internet than BT had originalaverage secondary school, pu-pils will be able to use the Internet for £1 a year each. In May, in a submission to

the regulator which was rejected because it offered BT-only access to the Net, the company had offered charges of £790 per school based on three hours use per day for 15 computers. The company had said it could not offer lower said it could not offer lower charges because of prices it had to pay other telephone line operators to transfer calls to Internet service providers. After talking to other com-panies over interconnection

Kiosk gives the jobless a link into cyberspace

AN "Internet Kiosk" was opened yesterday to give those who cannot afford a computer a gateway into

The touch screen booth, housed in a community centre in Hulme, central Manchester, is the first of six to be set up across the city for the technologically disadvantaged", and is part of an EUfunded pilot project. The jobless and homeless will be able to surf the Internet for jobs, information about benefits and community news. They can also e-mail potential

employers. Kiosks will be installed in an Asda superstore, public libraries, a neighbourhood office and an office of the magazine The Big Issue.
The project is the first fruit

of a public and private partnership between the information technology service group Sema, the electronics company NEC. Manchester City. Council and Internet services

"More and more people are starting to benefit from the information society but a gap is starting to appear between the haves and have nots."

The kiosk, called Magic Touch, was opened by the former Manchester United and England footballer Sir Bobby Charlton at the Kath Locke Centre in Hulme. Tony Wilson, a Granada

television presenter, said that it was fitting that the first freeaccess computer should be launched in Manchester where the computer was born nearly 50 years ago. The said, should not be barred to people who could not afford to buy their own computer. its organisers were claim-

ing that the casual user would be able to search on-line for employment databases, benefit entitlements, newspapers and news: about events in Manchester. Users will be able to register using an alias and, for at least the first six their own confidential e-mail

lieves that all parties in the industry are willing to play their part to deliver cheap services to schools.

The new pricing level, which goes out to industry for consultation, means BT and cable companies are unlikely to earn cash from serving schools but they will be enticed to provide the service by the prospect of catching technology users at a young age. They will also wire up the schools free of charge.

Mr Cruickshank said he

hoped pricing and other ar-rangements would be sealed soon to allow nationwide access early in the next academic

Linking the UK's 30,000 schools to the Internet has been led by Tony Blair, who made it a pledge when Labour was in opposition. Yesterday, Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, said: "The plan to have agreement in the coming academic year is testimony to the commitment that all the interested parties have in achieving the Government's objectives."

David Blunkett, the Educa-

tion and Employment Secretary, said he welcomed the proposals. "In our White Paper, Excellence for Schools, we reaffirmed our commitment to create a National Grid for Learning, an unprecedent-ed Internet-based educational resource." BT said that it was consider-

ing the pricing proposals. The Cable Communications Association, which supported the regulator's move, said: "BT may provide the physical link to the great majority of schools, but most Internet and other on-line services are provided by the rest of the telecommunications industry, not BT. It is therefore vital that the industry as a whole participates.

Next on the agenda for the telecommunications regulator will be prices for Internet access for colleges of further education. Future plans will involve libraries and public buildings such as hospitals.



Dog's life: a Scottie takes to the catwalk at Harrods yesterday in a tartan outfit. Clothes for dogs under the Barking Mad label cover formal wear, evening attire, rainproofs and party frocks. Prices start from £89.95

Call for new gambling laws

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A FAR-REACHING review of the gaming laws was demanded yesterday to control the development of gambling on the Internet and proposals for televised bingo in pubs and supermarkets

The Gaming Board said the Internet would bring hard gambling into the home, with no restrictions on credit or the involvement of children.

The board also expressed alarm at plans by Camelot and a rival firm to introduce Keno. a lotte popular in the United States Proposals for Keno in Britto set up an independent interactive television need to international dri and the Far East. It said this ain have been put forward by review of the 1968 Garning Act be addressed. The report says.

type of gambling should take place only in licensed premises that excluded people under 18. The board's annual report, oublished yesterday, said:

"Large-scale and hard gambling activities could become available in people's homes with no proper control over such matters as gambling on credit or by children. The potential also arises for criminal involvement in organising the gaming and for its use for money laundering and other

criminal durboses.

Camelot, the National Lottery operator, and Inter Lotto. Critics complain that the highly popular game is addictive because it can be played every five minutes. Players choose how many numbers they hope to match, with winnings rising

The annual report says The board has made clear its unease about repetitive, frequent games. Pubs and clubs were never intended to be used for hard gambling."

accordingly.

The report urges ministers

and of the consequences of greater opportunities to gamble, for the industry and the public. "Concern about problem and addictive gambling is growing, as gambling opportunities grow. There is the prospect of devolution, which will raise invevitable ques-

tions about where responsibility for gambling legislation in Scotland and Wales should rest. The questions of unregulated gambling on the Internet, ships and aircraft and the possible effects of interactive television need to | international drugs ring and

Souvenir seller who joined drug ring is jailed

By A STAFF REPORTER

A MONEY courier in a E37 million cocaine smuggling scheme was jailed for seven years yesterday. Thomas Hutton, 52, was described at Bristol Crown Court as a footsoldier rather than an officer in the drugs operation.

Hutton, who at one time ran a souvenir stall in Oxford Street, London, was assessed by Judge John Foley as bene-fitting from his drug dealings by El million. He was ordered to hand over assets of £91,867 within I2 months or serve up to two more years in jail Hutton, who lived in Medellin, Colombia, admitted one charge of conspiracy and two

of money-laundering.

They arose after Customs and Excise officers infiltrated the laundering operation and later boarded the catamaran Frugal as it put into Pevensey Bay, East Sussex, on a January night in 1995 with a cargo of Colombian cocaine with a street value of £37 million.

Hutton met his wife Miriam at his souvenir stall when she was a tourist. He followed her to Colombia, where they

They later moved to Miami. where he became involved with her Colombian friends and became a courier for drugs money. He served five years in Los Angeles for

interstate money-running. Yesterday Michael Parroy. QC, for the prosecution, said that Hutton returned to Brit-ain in 1994 to contact Brian Doran, 52, of South Kensing-ton, and Kenneth Togher, 33, of West Brompton. They were leading organisers of the Pevensey Bay drugs run and will be sentenced on Monday for their part in that and other drugs operations.

Alex Carlile, QC, representing Hutton, said that he had drifted into crime. His father was an author on anti-Soviet espionage and "lived very much in a cloak-and-dagger world". Hutton "was a footsoldier rather than a manager" in the drugs operation. The trials follow an under-

cover customs operation which broke a £65 million

Blind student triumphs at Oxford

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

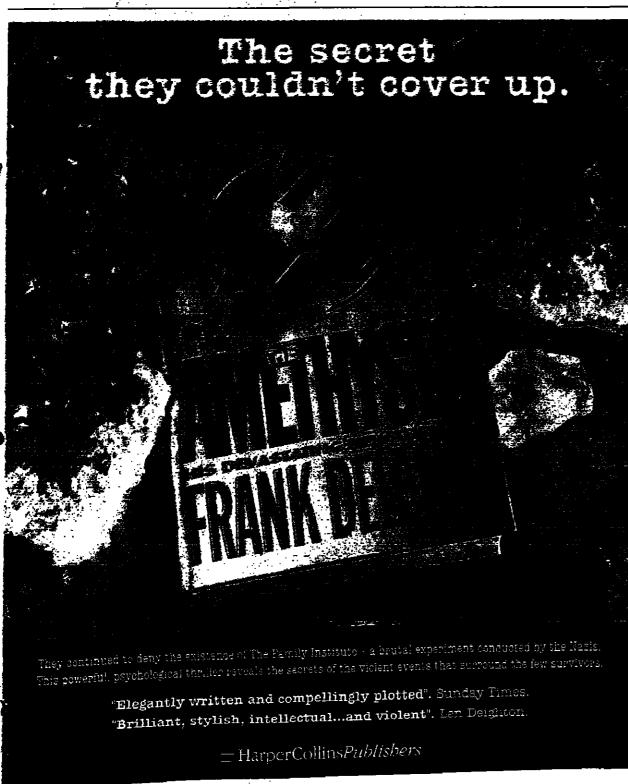
A BLIND student who had been advised to give up any thoughts of an academic career was awarded a first-class degree from Oxford University yesterday.

Ben Merrick, 23, has a rare hereditary disease that struck in his late teens, reducing his vision to a blur. He defied his doctor to study French and Latin at

Exeter College for four years using audio books and a voice-operated computer. He hopes to work for the Home Office or the Ministry of Defence. through a degree," he said. "I would say to anyone, you should just go for it. I have always viewed it as a practical problem rather than a major drawback."

Mr Merrick, of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, said that his vision began to fail during his year off after leaving school. "I remember a doctor in London telling me that I might as well give up because I would never get

He praised the staff of the Oxford Recording Centre for the Blind, based at the university's Bodleian Library, who tape-recorded hundreds of books and passages for him. "Without them, I couldn't have done anything," he said.









As they were and as they are: back row, from left, Tony Blackburn, Jimmy Young, Robin Scott, Duncan Johnson (crouching), Dave Cash, Pete Brady: middle row, Bob Holness, Terry Wogan, Keith Skues, Chris Denning, Pete Myers: front row, Pete Murray, Ed Stewart, Pete Drummond. Mike Ahern, and John Peel. Kenny Everett, Barry Aldiss and Mike Raven, who were in the original picture, have died

Long-playing DJs sing praises of 30 years of Radio 1

FACES and voices from 30 years of radio history were reunited yesterday as Terry Wogan rubbed shoulders again with Jimmy Young. Ed "Stewpot" Stewart and Tony Blackburn. The faces are older and voices mellower but the 16 men who took BBC Radio 1 into the nation's heart are more enthusiastic about their trade than

ever. When Tony Blackburn at the age of 24 picked up the microphone to open his Breakfast Show on September 30, 1967, he was heard by 19 million listeners — an overwhelming audience in today's multi-station world. He spoke to a nation worried about the "pound in your pocket" phrase of Harold Wilson. the Prime Minister.

and fascinated by Twiggy in Mary Quant's clothes. Now Blackburn is still playing the same music to a different audience on his Capital Gold Breakfast Show. He said yesterday: This morning I played Flowers In The Rain. by The Move, which was a big hit in 1967. It was the song I opened Radio I with 30 years ago." For the

15 young men and Robin Scott, then Controller of Radio 1 and 2, the station was a stepping stone to success. "It was the best thing that could happen to anyone. It was tremendous,' Blackburn said. "It was the only thing I wanted to do then and I still love it. I'm still doing discos now." Meeting the old familiar faces has also given

YOU CAN DO IT WHEN YOU BAQ IT!

Blackburn's morale a big boost. He joked: "I'm the only one who hasn't aged." The DJs who lined up on the steps of All Souls' Church outside BBC Broadcasting House were: Mike Ahern, Tony Blackburn, Pete Brady, Dave Cash, Chris Denning, Pete Drummond, Bob Holness, Duncan Johnson, Pete Murray, Pete Myers,

John Peel, Keith Skues, Ed Stewart. Terry Wogan and Jimmy Young. Robin Scott was also there. Three others from the original picture. Kenny Everett, Barry Aldiss and Mike Raven, have died. BBCI will broadcast a 50-minute documentary, The Radio One Story, this autumn to commemorate the station's 30 years.

"You can save £50 on this Electric Shower."



DLY CHAIN - FOR YOUR HEADEST STORE PHONE DEGG 600 900

Social service budget cuts hit elderly

By Alexandra Frean, social affairs correspondent

ELDERLY people are bearing the brunt of cuts in local authority social services budgets as places in nursing homes are reduced and new charges introduced for essential home care, according to a report published yesterday.

The study by the Association of Directors of Social Services found that the cuts, which amount to £214 million a year or £2.5 million per authority, were increasing the workload of managers and staff by forcing them constantly to find new ways of coping within ever-tightening financial constraints. The picture is a depressing and daunting one, with social services authorities across the country having to find reductions in their budget at a time of rising

need," it concluded. The report found that the vast majority of the 140 councils in England and Wales that it surveyed were seeking to protect child care services, which meant that the pressure was increasingly falling on services for adults, particularly those for elderly people.

Most of the authorities questioned had introduced stricter criteria for access to services, such as home care and nearly 40 per cent had introduced new charges for services that were previously free. Between them, they had withdrawn 2.280 places in nursing and care homes, an average of 28 places per authority.

Of particular concern to the

association was the discovery that a few authorities were placing elderly people in resi-

dential care rather than supporting them in the community if the latter was more costly. Given the demographic trends towards an ageing population, the association is

concerned that spending and lack of investment in homes for the elderly could lead to a shortage of places. The cuts represented about

4 per cent of the social services budgets, at a time of growing demand and tougher targets for quality, the study said. Authorities were seeking to generate additional funding. develop new ways of working, re-align their investments and improve their efficiency, but had an uphill struggle. "There is deep concern at the effects on the more vulnerable; and frustration that the good track record of services in introducing care in the community and new children's services is being undermined by budget

constraints," it concluded.

Authorities are seeking to save money by changing con-ditions of service for staff and replacing highly-trained workers with less qualified and lower paid staff. Grants to voluntary organisations are being frozen.



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Andrews had 'motive for marriage, not murder'

BY JOANNA BALE

TRACIE ANDREWS is not a monster but a person wrongly accused of an horrendous crime, a court was told

Miss Andrews, who is charged with the roadside murder of her fiance Lee. Harvey, had no motive for murder but a motive for marriage. She loved Mr Harvey and wanted to spend the rest of her life with him, Ronald Thwaites, QC, for the defence, said.

Mr Thwaites urged the jury to approach the case with an open mind. He criticised what he called prejudicial press coverage of the case, saying: "You may know of, or live with, one of the army of armchair detectives who ... pointed to Miss Andrews when she appeared on the television screen, and, knowing nothing of her other than her bruised blonde looks, said. 'If you ask me, I bet she did it'. And when days later she was arrested and charged with murder ... all those television

ed themselves." Mr Thwaites, opening the defence, said that Miss Andrews was to give evidence on ... Monday so the jury could hear

pundits no doubt congratulat-

her side of the story. "The pros-6 This is the ecution say she had a motive for man she murder. She 🛊 says no, she had had fixed a motive for marriage. This is the upon to man she had fixed upon to spend the rest of spend the her life with. rest of her They had found glamour with life with 9 other, each

charm with each other. They wanted each other." He said relationship surviving and that the couple had twice saw the child as a burden Lee postponed their wedding but did not welcome. She did not still hoped to marry and had want to be left with two attended marriage guidance. "She was wearing his ring on the night he died and is." wearing it still today. She was committed to him."

He said the police had prematurely abandoned investigations into her claims that Mr Harvey was stabbed by a man who was the passenger in a Ford Sierra. This followed evidence from two people in a car which passed the couple near the murder scene who alleged there was no car following them. Mr Thwaites said: "You

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know that almost from the moment that those two witnesses were seen, the police investigation into the Sierra stalled and came to a complete stop, never to be restarted. Within 72 hours they closed the book on her account and never reopened it."

He described Miss Andrews as a generally sensible, level-headed, practical young woman who could cope with her life as a single mother. "By contrast, Mr Harvey was a person who could not cope very well with his life."

He said Mr Harvey hated his job at a bus garage which he had given up and gone back to before being dismissed. He did not get on with his family. He also had rows over maintenance with the mother of his young daughter who had taken out an injunction against him.

Mr Thwaites said: "He bit-terly resented paying mainte-nance which was one of the reasons why he gave up his job, so that the CSA could not get money from his employers." Mr Thwaites said that it was Mr Harvey's jealousy and insecurity that caused their frequent rows. "He was obsessional about her. He spent his

> Thwaites disclosed that Miss Andrews had be but decided on an abortion because they were having prob-lems. "She wanted to have his child, but they were having problems. She

children by two men." weeks and she immediately

regretted it, Mr Thwaites said. She was unable to tell him the truth about that until some weeks later, pretending she miscarried." As a result of the abortion, Mr Thwaites said, Miss Andrews lost her figure and bust and Mr Harvey made unkind remarks which she found deeply hurtful. He later apologised and paid for breast implants.

Miss Andrews denies mur der. The case continues.

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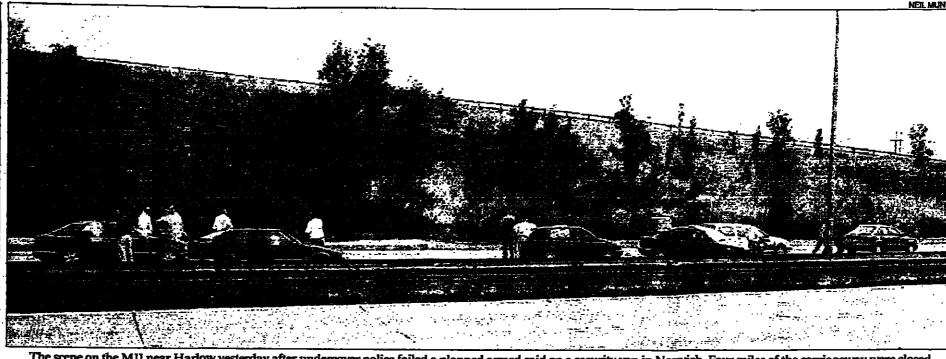
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The scene on the MII near Harlow yesterday after undercover police foiled a planned armed raid on a security van in Norwich. Four miles of the carriageway were closed

Armed gang arrested on motorway

BY STEWART TENDLER CRIME CORRESPONDENT

FOUR suspected armed robbers were arrested by police on the M11 yesterday after an undercover operation halted an attempt to rob a security van. A southbound section of the motorway between junctions 6 and 7 was closed for nearly three hours after three cars and a van were stopped by a

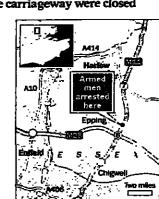
team of nearly 100 officers from Scotland Yard and Norfolk police. Police found four handguns and ammunition, but no shots were fired and no one was injured.

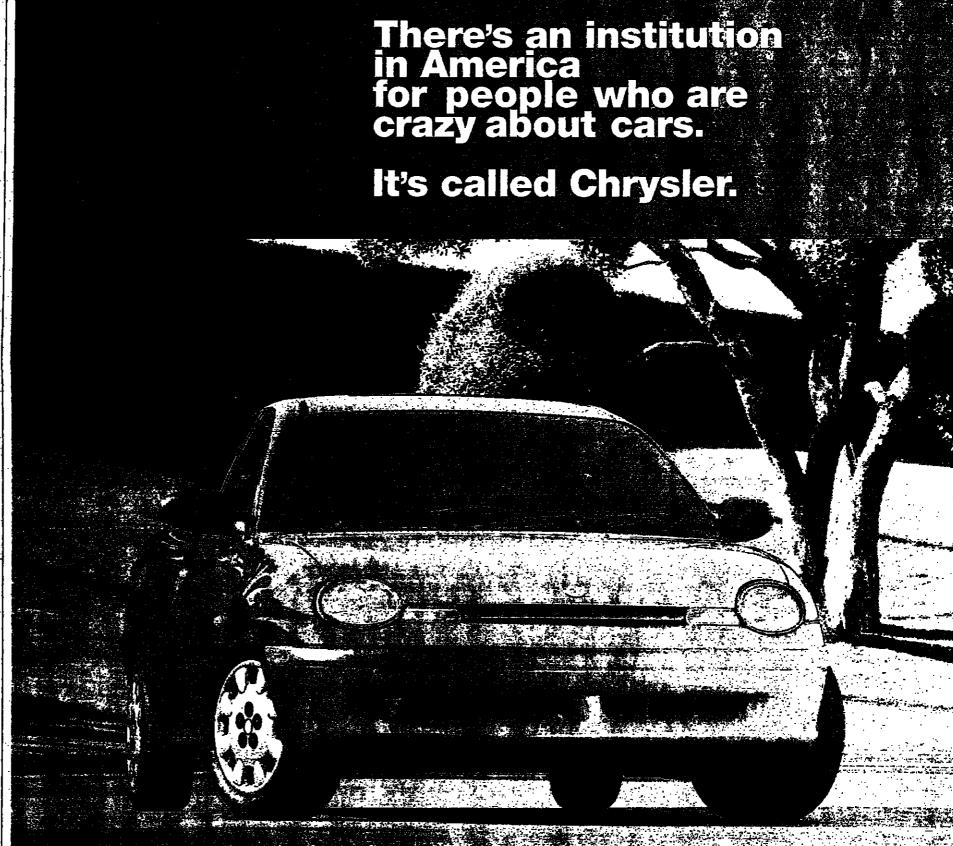
The four suspects were under surveillance as they left London yesterday and headed for Norwich in four stolen vehicles. They reached the target area still under observation but decided not to carry out the raid. Last

night police would not say how the robbery had been disrupted but police may have asked for the van's deliveries to be cancelled or the vehicle took a different route.

The suspects then began driving back to London in convoy, followed by police in unmarked cars. They drove onto the All and then joined the motorway south of Cambridge. Armed officers and police helicopters of the motorway close to the junction with the M25. Tailbacks of up to ten miles built up during the closure of a four-mile stretch of motorway south from Harlow. Last night the four suspects faced questioning about plans to rob the van in Norwich and other robberies in the London area. All four are middle-aged and come

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We are making every effort to return to normal service this weekend following the period of industrial action.

We are happy to confirm that the following services will be operating as normal:

- All flights to and from regional airports Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh
 & Glasgow (though some to and from London Heathrow may be affected).
- All domestic & European flights to and from London Gatwick.
- The following franchise & Alliance operated flights:

BA998-999	BA4600-4999	BA6800-6999	BA8000-8199	BA8700-8839
BA3000-3499	BA6200-6449	BA7400-7499	BA8200-8299	BA8840-8899
BA4000-4199	BA6700-6749	BA7600-7949	BA8300-8450	

• All intercontinental flights to and from London Heathrow and London Gatwick except those listed below:

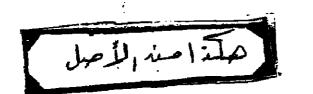
London Heathr	<u>ow</u>		·	London Gatw	<u>ick</u>
Cairo New York [Newark) New York (JFK)	BA33/BA34 BA155/BA154 BA185/BA184 BA113/BA116	Detroit Madras Dhahran	BA41/BA42 BA21/BA22 BA95/BA94 BA97/BA96 BA35/BA36 BA129/BA128	Dubai & Colombo New York (JFK) Baku	BA2137/BA2136 BA2173/BA2172 BA2029/BA2028
Boston Cape Town Ieddah	BA239/BA238	Dubai	BA157/BA156 BA127/BA126 BA39/BA38		
Larnaca & Tehran	BA103/BA102				-
Domestic and E	uropean flights to a	nd from	London Heathrow		

For further details of flights operating this weekend and early next week, either:

- 1. contact your travel agent or British Airways Travel Shop
- 2. look on ITV Teletext p.380 & p.381
- 3. visit our website at www.british-airways.com/strike
- 4. or call our information line 0800 727 800.

Again, we would like to offer our sincerest apologies to any customers who are being inconvenienced by the industrial action. Rest assured that we are continuing to do all we can to keep disruption to a minimum. If your flight is affected, we will endeavour to organise alternative travel arrangements for you to reach your destination.

BRITISH AIRWAYS



Parents foot the bill as student debt rises by 25%

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

three they were the main source of income.

The finding comes less than a formight before Sir Ron

Dearing is expected to recom-

mend that students should

pay fees of £1,000 a year or

more, as well as meeting their

own living costs. Ministers are

likely to adopt the proposals to

avert a funding crisis in uni-

a string of others illustrating

student hardship will add to

the pressure from student or-

ganisations and Labour MPs

to preserve free full-time high-er education. The National

Union of Students said the fig-

ures showed that student debt

was already restricting access

for those from poorer families.

An NUS spokesman said:

"It shows that students are

simply not coping with the lev-els of debt they are being

forced into at the moment unless they have parents who can afford to help them. There

is no doubt that asking students to repay tuition fees as

well would deter large num-

bers from trying to get into higher education at all."

grants have been cut, to be increasingly replaced by loans, reliance on parental support

has grown. The average con-

tribution is £631 this year,

while other parents provided

free food, help with travelling,

At the same time, the proportion of students saying they owed money to their parents

halved, from 34 per cent to 17

per cent, suggesting that more

parents were not expecting their children to repay them.

Fewer than 30 per cent of

students now regard their local education authority

maintenance grant as their

main source of income. Two

thirds now owe money to the

Student Loans Company, with

financial position, fewer stu-

dents were working during their summer holidays. How-

ever, more than 80 per cent intended to do so and 30 per

Students themselves were saving more before going to

college, aware of the financial burden they would face. This

year, 58 per cent of first-year students went to college with savings averaging £1,137.

As awareness of debt rises, students are getting more

resigned to it, the survey

shows. Only 21 per cent were

"worried, angry or concerned"

about their debts, compared

age living costs for students in

London and Manchester. Af-

ter combined maximum grant

and loan, the shortfalls for stu-

dents in London ranged from

£1.630 for a first-year living in

a hall of residence to £3,428 for

a third-year renting a house with three others. In Man-

chester, where the maximum loan is lower, the equivalent figures were £1,755, and £3,605.

with 30 per cent last year. The survey calculated aver-

cent had a term-time job.

In spite of their worsening

an average debt of £1,724.

or even the use of a car.

The Barclays survey shows that as students' maintenance

However, today's report and

versities and colleges.

PARENTS are picking up a growing share of the bill for three they were the main their children's higher educa-tion even before the Government's expected addition of £1,000 a year in tuition fees, according to a bank survey published today.

Annual research on students' finances by Barclays Bank shows that average debts have risen by a quarter in a single year. Almost nine out of ten students expect to owe money when they graduare, the average amount rising from less than £2,000 last year to almost £2,500.

With state support dwindling, parents are paying more than £400 million a year to help their children, on top of means-tested contributions to student grants. Three quarters of students said they received some money from their par-

CASE HISTORY

Loan heads for £4,000 despite aid from home

EVEN with debts of more than £3,000 and another year at university to come, Vicky Askew is grateful that she is a student now (John O'Leary writes). Paying tuition fees would have ruled her out of

higher education. The 22-year-old public relations student knew when she entered Bournemouth University that she was likely to go into the red: "Debt is part of being a student nowadays."

With no grant, she has had to rely on parents with debts of their own. Both she and her sister, Madeleine, are students, so the burden on the family after an expensive jobrelated move south is considerable. "I really don't like having to sponge off my parents," Vicky said. "There is no way I could have gone to university if it meant fees of £1,000 a year."

She has found Bournemouth expensive, with rent £10 a week higher than her sister pays in Northampton. After two years, she had borrowed £2,400 from the Student Loans Company and

had a bank overdraft of £750. For the past year, she has been on a work placement at the Institute of Internal Auditors, London, earning £8,000. But the capital's cost of living prevented her from reducing her overdraft. She hopes that will begin next month when she starts a summer job in a meat-packing factory near her home in Suffolk.

When she graduates in a year, she hopes to have only her student loan to repay. But that will be more than £4,000. "It will take a few years to pay off. I know people who are still paying five years after they graduated."

Malaysian **Tom Cruise** finds role at Newcastle

BY PAUL WILKINSON

SOUTH-EAST ASIA'S answer to Tom Cruise was yesterday completing the first steps in his other career, picking up an honours degree in architecture at an English university.

Back home Azhar Sulaiman has an estimated 80 million female fans, but for the last three years the Malaysian film star has mingled anonymously in the students' union bar at Newcastle University. Even the sight last winter of a television crew spending three months in the city making a soap opera of his fictional exploits as a Malaysian student abroad failed to stir much interest on Tyneside.

It was only when the hero of a string of romantic dramas visited the university stand at an exhibition in Kuala Lumpur that tutors realised his status. Terry McCarthy, director of Newcastle's international office. was amazed to see him mobbed by

screaming teenagers.
He then learned that Mr Sulaiman broke the hearts of thousands of girls across South-East Asia three years ago when, at the age of 22, he uspended his film career after ten blockbusters to take his degree. However, their interest was kept up



The star: he appeared in ten films

Cinta Antara Benua, or Love Across the Continents, the adventures of Zack the overseas student. The series is shown in Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and Indonesia.

Mr Sulaiman, who lives with his wife Chempaka, 26, in Gosforth, and bopes to combine the two careers, said: "I suppose my roles equate to a Hollywood star like Tom Cruise. I told people that I had done some acting, but no one realised quite how well known I was. It was nice to be able to just mix with the crowd. I saw no reason to make a big fuss."



The graduate: Mr Sulaiman after receiving his architecture degree



6 They were "racing the latitudes to change attitudes" towards disability. However, as they approach Britain at the end of the round the world race, a more complex story is emerging. Disability is certainly no bar to tenacity, endurance and courage. Nor is it a bar to rows, tears, terror or defection

The truth about the disabled crew racing round the world. In News Review tomorrow

THE SUNDAY PAPERS

"MY DAD'S CAR IS BETTER THAN YOUR DAD'S CAR!* (*IT'S OFFICIAL, BBC TOP GEAR MAGAZINE VOTED THE FIAT BRAVA FAMILY CAR OF THE YEAR.)

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Because you want your kids to enjoy the best of everything, you really must take a look at the Fiat Brava. After all, BBC Top Gear magazine rate it this year's best family car. That's partly because the Brava doesn't look like

BRAVA 1.45 Cosh Price† £11,070.13 £14,898.28 £153.00 £206.00 0% £5,562.13 £7,482.28 API £11,070.13 £14,898.28

driver's airbag, ABS and remote control central locking. And for convenience, electric door mirrors, windows and sun-roof. The thoughtful inclusion of a 6 speaker CD compatible radio-cassette means you can drown the sound of noisy offspring with a tweak of the volume button. And because Top Gear won't be the only ones to covet the Fiat Brava ELX, the car is fitted with an alarm and a Fiat CODE immobiliser. It means that only you and your sprogs can

> enjoy the refined 1.6 or sporty 1.8 engines. (Alternatively, you could plumb for the 1.9 turbo diesel if you want to save money fast.) 1997's Top Family Car can be yours from just £11,070, on the road. All Bravas are also available with Fiat's Flexible Easiplan, which offers a host of

unique ways to drive a new Fiat. So what family car will get your vote? The one that's better than your kid's friend's dad's car, of course. Call 0800 71 7000. http://www.fiat.co.uk^{††} or visit your local Fiat dealer for more information,

FIAT BRAVA

a family car. (Put a cardboard box

next to the photo above. See, no

resemblance whatsoever.) And in this

case appearances are not deceptive.

The Brava is also stylish and

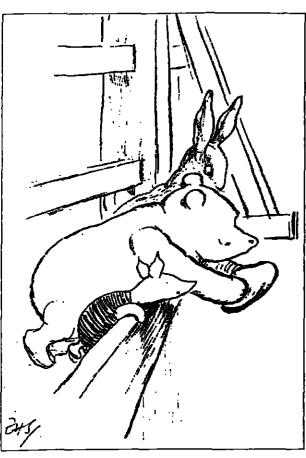
carefully designed on the inside.

Of course, careful design means safe

design. The Brava ELX features a

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An illustration showing Winnie the Pooh playing at "Pooh sticks", captioned "I'm not throwing it, I'm dropping it, Ecvore", was one of two by E. H. Shepard for The House at Pooh Corner that fetched £67.500 each yesterday. Six of the artist's pen-and-ink sketches for A.A. Milne's Pooh books were sold for a total of £178,000, more than five times the estimated price, at auction at Christie's. South Kensington.

£15,000 for smudge that broke mould

A SMUDGE of mould nearly 70 years old was sold at auction yesterday. This was no common bathroom growth but a sample from the original culture in which Sir Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin in 1928. It fetched £14,950 in a lot with a photograph of Fleming in his laboratory and a medal commemorating the discovery.

The specimen, preserved under glass in a wooden box. was bought by the Science Museum in London and is to be displayed in an exhibition about penicillin. The museum had been prepared to pay more because of the specimen's importance to the history of medicine. "Fleming was the forefather of antibiotics and chemotherapy." a spokes-

The sample was given by Fleming to Douglas MacLeod. a gynaecologist colleague at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington. The men had been discussing developments in bacteriology and the constant struggle to ward off infections in the hospital canteen.

Fleming praised a new drug but then turned to his companion and said: "You know. A part of medical

history will be preserved forever reports **Damian** Whitworth

Mac. I've got something much better — but no one will listen to me and I can't get anyone

Dr MacLeod, nicknamed "The Hielander" by Fleming. later told a biographer: "I asked him what the substance was called. He said he had given it the name penicillin. He asked me to go with him to his laboratory. He showed me the mould and gave me a specimen.

Dr MacLeod kept the unusual gift until his death in 1970. It was sold at Christie's by his son, Rory MacLeod, 62. who said at his home near Wincanton, Somerset: "I'm delighted at the result. Fleming wasn't the best man to promote himself or his work. being a rather shy chap.

Nobody would take any notice of him. But when he offered my father a sample, he accepted it and always kept it."
Fleming, born in Ayrshire in 1881, spent most of his

career investigating the body's defences against bacterial infection but it was only late in life that he received retrospective fame for discovering penicillin in 1928. The breakthrough came when he noticed that mould which had contaminated a bacterial culture had destroyed the bacteria in its vicinity. He identified the mould as Penicillium notatum and named the anti-bacterial substance penicillin. Although Fleming could not

ic, he never lost confidence that penicillin would be stabilised and purified and rejoiced when Ernst Chain and Howard Florey accomplished this at Oxford 11 years Manufacture was given top

isolate or identify the antibiot-

priority to cope with mounting war casualties and, as its efficacy became more widely known, Fleming was showered with honours. He died in 1955 and is buried in St Paul's

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Sir Alexander Fleming at work: this photograph was part of the auction lot

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Replica of stolen World Cup sells to mystery buyer

A REPLICA of the World Cup sold for £254,500 yesterday at Sotheby's in London well the estimate of £30,000. It was bought The gilt bronze copy of the

gold original was passed off as the real thing for two years before it was won by Brazil in 1970. The 13 in-high Jules Rimet trophy was stolen while on show at Central Hall. Westminster, in March 1966. A few days after the theft Football Association officials commissioned a replica from Alexander Clarke, a firm of City silversmiths. But while preparatory work was going ahead the cup was found by a

London. Four months later Bobby Moore held the cup aloft after England's win over Germany at Wembley. It prompted worldwide demand to see the gold trophy kept in the jeweller's strongroom in Fenchurch Street. It was brought out up to ten

in bushes in south

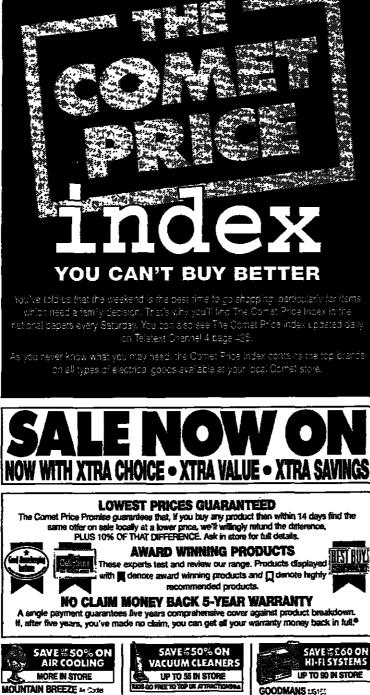
times a week for official functions at Buckingham Palace, Downing Street, and at government departments. Security was becoming a problem and to avoid a second

theft it was decided that a replica should be made in

bronze for display while the gold original remained in store. Work began again and the copy was completed in 1968. Brazil were entitled to keep the cup after winning the competition for the third time in 1970. But it was stolen a second time, never to be seen. again, when it was taken back to South America. A new



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THE MANAGE STATE OF BOTH IT SHARES SHEET SHARES ARE SHEET SHARES AND ASSESSED OF COMMITTEE SHARES AND ASSESSED OF COMMITTE

Espionage chief tells German spies to stop playing the game of the name

By ROCER BOXES

GERMAN spies will soon be allowed to abandon their aliases and use their real names as part of a campaign of candour in the Munich-based Intelligence Service

The plans for glasnost in the BND (Bundesnachrichtendienst), the German Secret Service, were unveiled at a staff meeting by the refurning intelligence chief. Hansjörg Geiger. When the decision is finally taken, some officers will probably be allowed to keep

their false names, if only to avoid confusion in the classmoms of their children or raised eyebrows from neighbours.

The uncloaking of agents comes after similar moves towards cautious opening in other European intelligence services, including M15, which has started to advertise openly for trainees. Dr Geiger's earlier position was as head of the German counter-espionage service in Cologne, where he presided over a public relations policy that included counter-spy T-shirts, computer games (Find the

Spy) for children and active, on and off the record, briefings for

journalists.

The BND, sometimes known as the banana-skin service because of its blunders, was always going to be a harder nut to crack. Since it was set up after the war by General Reinhard Gehlen — Hitler's top intelligence gatherer on Soviet military affairs — there has been a mantle of secrecy over the spy headquarters in Pullach on the fringes of Munich. Gehlen was never seen without sunglasses and used the alias Dr Schneider.

The first move of Dr Geiger (his real name) was to remove the plaque saying "Federal Property Administration. Special Section" outside the main gate and replace it with a big stone sign proudly announcing BND under a carved, alert-looking eagle. Journalists have been invited to an open day, briefed about global troublespots and encouraged to contact a jovial spokesman who goes under the

cover name of Peter Juchatz.

More radical changes have been slow in coming. The BND still collects its employees in the morn-

ing with undercover buses disguised as regular buses. They draw to a halt 40 yards away from proper bus stops to ensure that no ordinary passengers get on board. The Secret Service is beginning to recognise that this is an absurdityneighbours are naturally suspicious when clusters of men in trencheoats wait on the pavement at 7.47 every morning; homeowners grumble about the un-

scheduled stops.

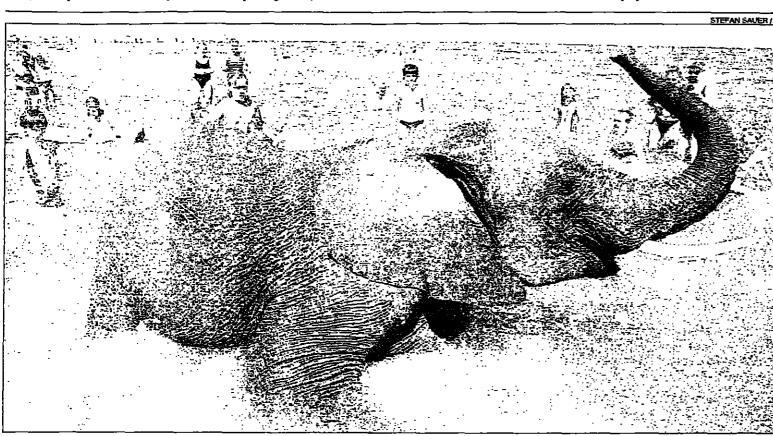
The bus "legend" follows from the principle that BND agents should be anonymous. When they

enter the service they are given cover names selected from the Munich area telephone book. One year all new entrants were given Italian cover names. Inside the Pullach headquarters — originally built for Nazi leaders: Eva Braun. Hitler's mistress, once stayed there — agents know each other only by a second alias, a su-called "working" name. Staff from Departments I — Operational

ments I — Operational Intelligence—are never allowed to meet their counterparts from Department DIII (Analysis).

The rule that family members

cannot be allowed to see the face of other BND agents has been strictly enforced. One agent from the International Terrorism Department (Section 16C) went on a works outing to a Bavarian brewery. He arranged for his wife to pick him up at the end of the excursion. The agent was reprimanded because his wife glimpsed the faces of his workmates. The agent was transferred to Open Information Retrieval — the room where newspapers are clipped. This is the espionage services equivalent of Siberia.



Daisy, a circus elephant, takes a bath in the Baltic yesterday watched by German children enjoying a dip at the resort of Ahlbeck on the island of Usedom. The elephant is one of the attractions at the Circus Aeros, which has pitched its tents in the nearby town of Bansin

Bonn insists budget hits euro bull's eye

THE German Government yesterday closed its ears to sceptical hoots from economists and the Opposition, and announced that it would fulfil precisely on target the public spending goal for economic and monetary union.

The promise came in a presentation by Theo Waigel. he Finance Minister, of a supplementary budget for 1997 and the regular budget for 1998. Much depended on growth. Herr Waigel said, but the current projection was for 2.5 per cent and "if anything it will have to be revised upwards". That, and a better than expected revenue flow from the 16 provincial states and from cities, would ensure that Bonn hit the 3 per cent of gross domestic product bull'seye for public deficits.

Strict adherence to the 3 per cent figure has been denounced as "fetishism" by the French, but it has become part of Herr Waigel's credo as he strives to persuade Germans that the euro will be as strong as the mark. "Germany will fulfil the Maastricht deficit criterion." the minister said after the Cabinet approved the two budgets. Herr Waigel also made clear that Germany would be an exercite. 1008

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COMPUTER SERVICES would be on target in 1998.

But the opposition Social Democrats — who described both the 1998 draft and the supplementary budget as "desperate measures" — said yesterday there was no way that a deficit of DM110 billion (£36.6 billion) could add up to 3 per cent of GDP. Norbert Walter, chief economist of Deutsche Bank, agreed, saying that the public deficit could be anything up to 3.5 per cent this year.

The supplementary budget, to patch rips opened up by unemployment, will require almost DMI8 billion (£6 billion) in new borrowing. Since this is in violation of the constitutional principle that new borrowing must not exceed investment spending, the

Government has had to declare an "exceptional unbalanced situation". The supplementary budget will have to be approved by the lower house. The 1998 draft will have to go through the whole parliamentary process, including the upper house, dominated

by the Social Democrats.

Officials made clear yesterday that the new borrowing would not jeopardise Germany's progress towards meeting the Maastricht public deficit criterion. But it was now regarded as improbable that Germany would achieve another Maastricht goal: that of reducing total debt to 60 per

cent of GDP.

Herr Waigel argues the total debt is so big only because of the specific conditions of German unification and promised yesterday it would be brought into line with EMU criteria by 2001.

As tipped earlier this week, the Cabinet gave the green light to the Eurofighter. Financing has now been agreed



Waigel: budget attacked as "desperate measure"

up to 2001 and, with preproduction investment in place, there are now no serious obstacles to the jet. This will come as a relief to Britain. Italy and Spain, which had been unable to begin work or embark on serious contracts because of the uncertainty in

Germany may be on course for one key

Maastricht target, thanks to what critics

call conjuring tricks, but other criteria

are elusive, writes Roger Boyes in Bonn

Parliamentary approval for the Eurofighter is expected in October — despite a few sceptics in the Free Democratic Party and the hostility of the Social Democrats and the Greens. Contracts for 180 aircraft would be signed soon after the parliamentary vote.

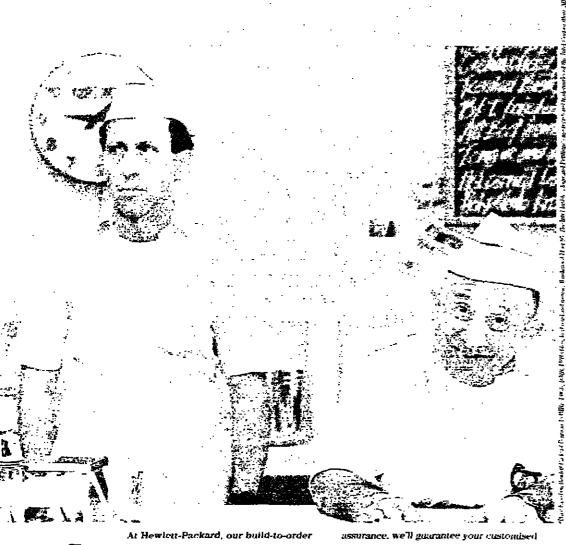
The main reaction to the budgets yesterday was that they were a piece of conjuring. The assumption that unemployment will drop quickly because of stronger growth seems to rest on shaky foundations and there is disagreement about what level of growth will be needed to make a dent on the 11.4 per cent

jobless rate.
One of Herr Waigel's cut-backs was aimed at job creation schemes. The minister says growth will be 2.5 per cent this year, 2.8 per cent next and stabilise at 2.5 per cent until the turn of the century. Yet so far the growth is generated almost entirely by the export orders of big companies who are continuing to lay off workers.

lay off workers.

A truer picture of the confused condition of Germany's public finances came with the Cabinet decision to sell off Germany's entire strategic reserve of crude oil —7.3 million tonnes — by late 1999 to cut the budget deficit.

British jobs boost, page 28



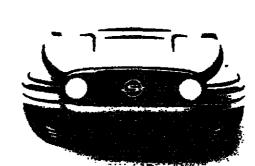
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Bishops 'knowingly ordain gay clergy'

RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

MANY bishops have knowingly ordained or employed practising homosexual clergy, even though this goes against Church of England policy, a survey is expected to disclose tomorrow.

The survey, by the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement, is being published as the General Synod prepares this weekend to dehate homosexuality. Bishops and clergy. concerned that the synod is becoming obsessed with single-issue polities, are trying to minimise the impact of the debate.

However, their pleas are likely to go unheard by protesters expected at the synod as the battle lines are drawn for Monday's debate on a 1991 bishops' report. "Issues in Human Sexuality", which sanc-tioned committed relationships between the homosexuals in the laity but ruled them out for clergy.

A motion from the Archdeacon of Wandsworth, the Ven David Gerrard, will ask the syrod to commend the report for discussion and acknowledge that it is not the final word on the subject. The bishops have already said that they will block any amendments to the motion. Nor do they want to alter the Church's stance, established in 1987. that homosexual genital acts should be met with a "call to repentance" and that heterosexual marriage was

However, many bishops quietly terday's Church Times, says the

WOMEN PRIESTS

A motion calling for the promotion of women priests to be bishops has been tabled to the General Synod - by one of their leading opponents. The Rev Geoffrey Kirk, a traditionalist who is secretary to the Forward in Faith group, which opposes women priests in the Church of England, has put down a private member's motion this weekend calling for the consecration of women bishops "without delay". This, he says, is because the synod must recognise that women bishops "are a necessary and inevita-ble consequence of the ordination of women." Supporters of women priests are threatening to boycott the motion. which they say is "mischievous". The ordination of women priests was approved five years ago.

acknowledge that a cleric's sexuality need have little hearing on their ability. There are dozens of practising gay and lesbian clergy operating

successful and valued ministries. The Rev Nick Holtham, vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, said the Church must now recognise that an individual's attitude to homosexuality was not a fundamental matter of faith or core test of Christian orthodoxy. Mr Holtham, writing in yesmost serious problem facing the bishops is that they have made it im-possible for practising homosexual clergy to contribute to the debate because they are supposed not to exist.

"I have been to the licensing of a priest who was known to the bishop as a homosexual living with his partner. In this service, the bishop declared that the priest was a man of sound morals"." he said.

"I have been to another service for a priest in which another bishop, usually identified as a traditionalist. expressed sympathy to the priest's family and particularly to the priest's same-sex partner. It is not surprising that those who are fiercely opposed to a tolerance of homosexuals within the Church distrust those bishops who appear to say one thing and do another."

The Right Rev Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford, who chairs a working group appointed to follow up the earlier report, said it was not true to argue that the Church would never change its mind on the subject, but said that the Church was not about to do so immediately.

The United Reformed Church has decided that men and women in active homosexual relationships can become serving ministers if their local church does not object. At its assembly in Portsmouth this week, it agreed that such a relationship would not be grounds to reject a

> At Your Service. Weekend, page 11



David Gerrard, right, in a televised debate on gay clergy yesterday

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We all have a role in God's soap operas

the Bible, as we know it, hardly existed be-fore the invention of the printing press in the 16th century. The Church did not evangelise and teach through books and pamphlets but by images. pictures, and stories told in family and community life. Medieval mystery plays

exemplified this approach to education and in the larger centres were mounted on epic scale, with sophistication and

civic pride. The plays followed quite closely the biblical stories of creation and redemption, with an underlying theme of the parallel encounters of human and divine, good and evil. The initial vision of creation overflowing from the supera

bundance of God degenerates into a conflict which can be resolved

and Calvary. of the Jews - can assume modern secular guises. The shepherds can be portrayed

the sequential scenes of the mystery plays represent. Christianity makes a drama out of a crisis, with the Son of God as the chief actor on a human and cosmic stage. When well scripted and acted, the mystery plays bring the story alive - much as Alec McCowen did in his renowned stage performance of St Mark's Gospel. Just as

he insisted upon the Authorised Version, so the best adaptations of the mystery plays retain a recognisable medieval dimension, woven together with modern themes and illustrations. Radio, television and associated media are taking us back towards the Middle Ages. Uliteracy is ris-

ing, and those

who can read

Forster

only by God Himself as He and write now rarely bother, or need to do so. We are makes His journey into the far country, to Bethlehem entertained by that form of storytelling known as soap

Stories are a highly adaptable artistic form. The basic story can be re-told in fresh ways, to which a contemporary audience can readily relate. Original sin can be expressed by road rage or the lonely bustle of urban life, alongside the traditional picture of the forbidden fruit. The wise men - representing the homage of the world at large to the newborn King with latter-day working

class overtones. The new cycle of Chester mystery plays brings old and new interpretations together in a creative way, in powerful performance. The woodenness and triviality of so much presentation of the Christian faith is

operas. In such a cultural context, mystery plays seem curiously avant-garde, communicating the Christian faith with freshness. Mystery plays invite the audience to become caught up in the plot as it explores the great issues of life and death. Beauty and enlightenment go hand in hand. They tackle the biggest subject there is, but in terms of day-to-day life. They are

to the stage. ☐ The Right Rev Peter Forster is Bisho of

about, and encompass, you

and me. By cajoling and

warning, by educating and

amusing, they invite us on

☐ The Chester mystery plays will run daily on the cathedral green until Wed-

Drinkers get beer facts, of Christian message

to drink to attract new members (Paul Wilkinson writes). A travelling band of preachers are using beermats to adver-

tise their impending arrival. The mats, which advertise the Through Faith Mission, are printed with passages of Scripture and Christian sym-

group, based in Cambridge. is walking round Britain, talking to customers in pubs. Tim Hall, the mission spokesman, said: "The whole basis is to reach out to people beyond the church and we are targeting people in pubs. The mats seem to work quite well."



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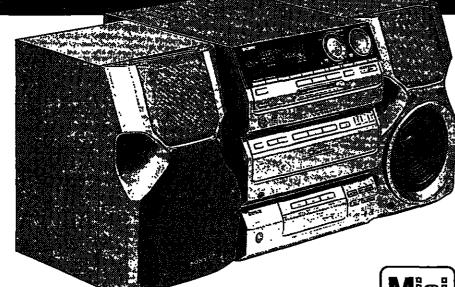
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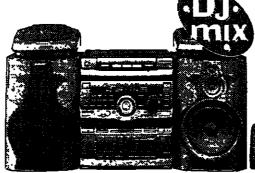


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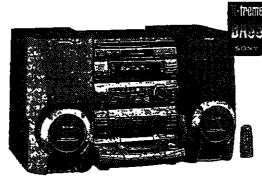






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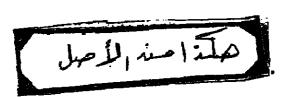
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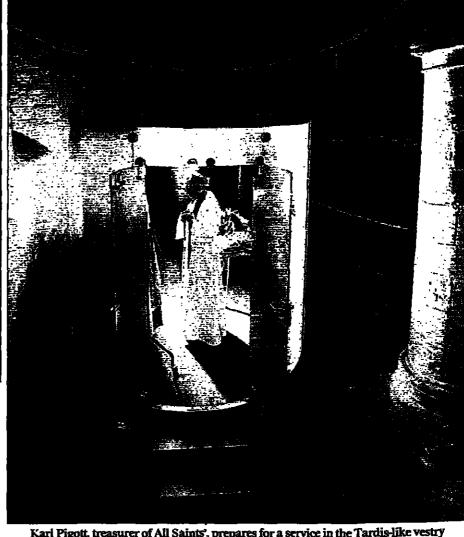
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Karl Pigott, treasurer of All Saints', prepares for a service in the Tardis-like vestry

Sacked clergy have no right to legal action

By ROBIN YOUNG

DISMISSED clergymen have no rights under employment laws because they are servants of God rather than employees of the Church, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.
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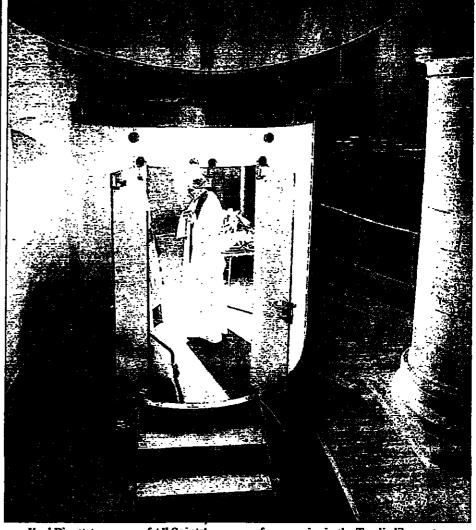
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Oil battle looms at Alaska sanctuary

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE British oil company BP is at odds with the US Government and environmentalists over the discovery of oil beside the last great sanctuary for Arctic wildlife in Alaska. The russle is a warning of

the pressure building on Washington from oil companies and the state of Alaska. They want to open potential oilfields in the frozen north on a scale not seen since the development of Prudhoe Bay

The strike by BP and Chevron is at a site called Sourdough on state land just a mile from the border of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This all but confirms that there is oil under the refuge, a federal preserve. The moment BP and Chevron announced their find last March, Bruce Babbin, the Secretary of the Interior, declared that the Administration was firmly opposed to any drilling within the refuge.

Since then, battle lines have been drawn. Environmentalists have emphasised the im-

fragile ecosystem of 19 million acres, teeming with an extraordinary diversity of life. Migratory residents include more than 180 bird species, new families of musk oxen reintroduced after being hunted to near-extinction, pregnant polar bears seeking dens and a herd of 150,000 caribou. All would be too nervous to withstand the advance of mankind with drilling rigs.

While barring oil explora-



tion in the refuge. Mr Babbitt taken out of Sourdough, on the ground that much of it will really be oil from under the the border. BP says Mr Babbitt must first prove that it comes from the refuge. To do so, according to BP, he must drill in the refuge. That would require an Act of Congress and was out of the question. replied Mr Babbitt.

Paul Laird, BP's spokesman in Alaska, said the company could drill as close as 500ft to the refuge, but he did not know how the Government could prove there was recoverable oil on its side of the fence without drilling a well.

John Leshy, a senior adviser to Mr Babbitt, disagreed. He said that drawing oil from under a neighbour's land was a common practice and there were well-known procedures for deciding compensation short of drilling.

'We're at an impasse," said spokesman for Tony

who supports development of Sourdough if BP and Chevron decide it is commercially

About 80 per cent of Alas-kans are pro-oil. One compelling reason is that each of them receives at least \$1,000 (£600) every year from an oil fund. Another is that oil's lucrative jobs will be threatened when Prudhoe Bay is tapped out.

Mr Knowles and the oil companies contend that the US is too dependent on foreign oil - 52 per cent of consumption was imported last year. They argue that oilfield tech-nology is now far kinder to Alaska's environment.

But oilfields still cause unacceptable pollution, says the Natural Resources Defence Council, a private group advocating improved fuel economy. Its research shows that 900 million barrels might lie under the wildlife refuge. That would meet America's needs



President Constantinescu of Romania beside him, points crowds gathered to welcome him yesterday at Bucharest's University Square. Mr Clin-

Clinton hails Romanians

enthusiastically to the he will help to secure their country a seat in the Nato alliance if they continue to

plored in a speech that drew prolonged applause. Speak-

round of Nato expansion.
The door to Nate is open." Mr Clinton said "And we will help you walk through it." (Reuter)

WORLD IN BRIEF

Cook in Moscow talks on security

London: Robin Cook leaves tomorrow for Moscow for two days of talks expected to consolidate Labour's political and security relations with Russia as Britain prepare to take over the presidency of the European Union as well as the leadership of the Group of Eight (writes Michael Binyon Diplomatic Editor).

On his first visit as Foreign Secretary, M Cook will hold talks with Yevgeni Primakov, his opposite jumber, which are expected to focus on Russia's relations with the European Union and East-West security after the acceptance of three new applicants for Nato membership.

Mr Cook will also have talks on growing security co-operation between London and Moscow. Britain has been disturbed by the growing influence of Russian mafia gangs overseas, and suggestions that mafia leaders are attempting to buy property in Britain for operations abroad. Trade is the other main topic of

Mistake mars rover's day

Pasadena: The Mars rover became stuck against a rock, depriving controllers of a day's data from the Pathfinder mission because of a two-minute miscalculation, scientists said. The sed an instruction to turn or its radio receiver for orders on overnight manoeuvres. The signal was to be re-sent, and the rover and a camera on the mother ship were expected to resume operations. Meanwhile, the rover was left immobile, with one of its six wheels halfway up a 22lbrock which scientists have dubbed Yogi. (AP)

Confidence vote survived

Vienna: Austria's Foreign Minister. Wolfgang Schüssel, right, survived a confidence vote brought by the three small opposition parties over reported derogatory comments about sev-eral foreign leaders. Herr Schüssel, well known among Austrian report-ers for making blunt remarks to journalists, had strenuously denied making any of the comments, which allegedly included calling Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, "an aging Bette Davis". (AP)



Boy killed in Pakistan feud

Karachi: The mutilated body of a ten-year-old boy who was strangled with a rope was found dumped in bushes in Karachi's crowded Lines district (Zahid Hussain writes). He was the fourth boy killed over the past three days on suspicion of being an informer for rival political factions or police. The murder of young boys is the latest twist in the political violence and revenge killings in Pakistan's commercial and financial capital involving the Mohajir Qaumi Movement and the dissident Haqiqi faction which have left more than 250 dead over the last four months.

Aids virus came from a kiss

New York: Health officials have reported the first documented case of the Aids virus being transmitted through kissing (Tunku Varadarajan writes). A woman is thought to have acquired the virus from deep kisses with a man who was HIV-positive. However, the report, released by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, emphasises that the virus was apparently transmitted by blood from the man's rotten gums, not by his saliva alone.

Woman hired shoplifter

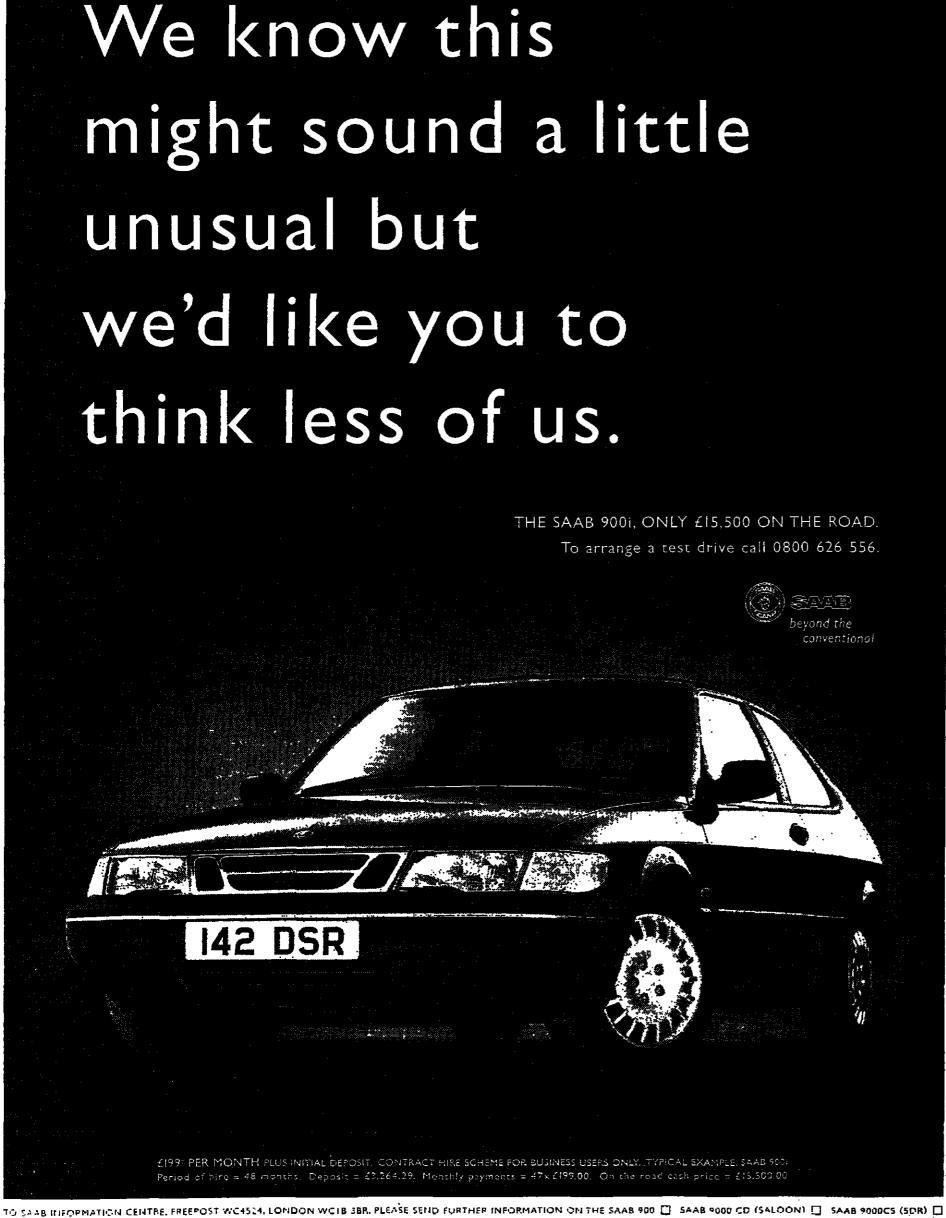
St Paul, Minnesota: A wealthy dentist and his daughter were acquitted of hiring a shoplifter to steal such luxuries as Baccarat crystal, Armani suits and Polo sportswear, but the man's wife was convicted on a felony charge. Gerald Dick, Judy Dick and their daughter — Stacy Zehren, a Chicago attorney — were accused of paying a thief to go into Dayton's department store and steal the items. The jury decided that the wife tried to buy designer goods worth \$7,000 (£4,100) she know were stoken. (AP)

Ten die in Bombay statue riot

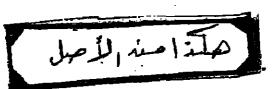
Bombay: At least ten people, including two children and a woman, were killed when police opered fire on a crowd protesting here at the desecration of a social activist's statue, police said. They said trouble started when a statue of Bhimrao Ambedkar, a revered leader of the lower social classes, was found garlanded with shoes, viewed as an insulting gesture. The protesters were fired on after they set fire to lorries, a Maharashtra state minister said. (Reuter)

China's soldiers of fortune

Beijing: Chinese soldiers stationed in Hong Kong are to get a pay rise of 900 per cent. China has been forced to up the meagre mainland salaries of troops garrisoned in the former colony about £4 a month — to help them sope with exorbitant living costs. They are now to get between about £35 and £43 a month, about nine times what their counterparts on the mainland receive, the Weekly Digest said. [Reuter].



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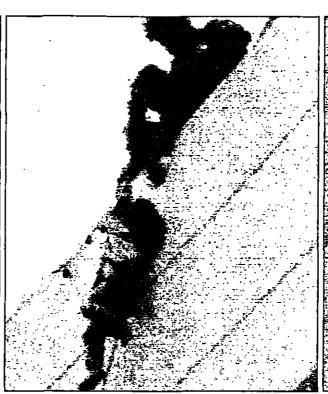
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Tourists saved as 80 die in Thai hotel fire

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND. IN BANGKOK

MORE THAN 80 people died of burns and suffocation and 64 were injured after being trapped in a blazing hotel in the Thai beach resort of Pattaya-Jomtien

in horrifying scenes several guests leapt to their deaths to avoid flames as others were snatched to safety by firefighters lowering ropes from the roof.

Most of the guests died where they were trapped as the hotel's fire

alarm and fire sprinklers failed to operate, and several fire doors were reported to have been locked. This may have been to prevent guests sneaking away without paying their bills, Bangkok's Channel 7 television claimed.

The 16-storey Royal Jomtien Resort, owned by a Thai business consortium, became a towering inferno after a fire in a wok being used by a cook in the first-floor kitchens set off a series of gas explosions from gas canisters stored near by.

First to die were those trapped in

the kitchen. Next came more than 20 of 80 workers attending a Thai Electricity Authority conference above. Among the early casualties bodies out of the wreckage. were foyer and office staff, includ-Suchart Pachinman, the provin-

the owner. Guests had no warning as the fire enveloped the hotel's foyer and office area and flames, accompa-nied by thick, billowing smoke, started shooting up lift shafts and stairwells.

ing the hotel manager and the chief

cashier, who was the daughter of

Scores of cars parked in the hotel's underground car park began exploding, fuelling the blaze. Late last night fire and rescue officials were still bringing charred

cial Governor, called for an immediate inquiry and all hotels in the area to be inspected. Checks would be made today to see what equipment was working and what doors were locked.

The fire broke out in the kitchens soon after 10.40am when the cooks were preparing breakfasts for some of the late risers. If it had started earlier, the death toll would

have been higher as guests would have been asleep in their beds.

David Rice, Britain's honorary

consul, visited the scene and was last night checking three hospitals in the area where the injured had been taken. So far, however, despite the resort being popular with British tourists, there are no reports of Britons among the casualties.

An American guest, aged 38, was in her room on the 15th floor with her 11-year-old daughter when she realised something was wrong. Her rescue was dramatically captured on film as she was pulled up by rope by firefighters who had landed by helicopter on the roof. "I realised there was a fire because I could smell the smoke. I phoned downstairs, but they said 'do not

"It was not possible to leave the room because the fire was raging below. There was smoke everywhere outside. I soaked a towel and put it under the door and managed to call a friend on a handphone to tell him of our predicament." she said. "We waited and waited. The

come down at any cost. Stay where

smoke became very bad. I cannot say how grateful I am for the helicopter and the fireman who came to lower down a rope.

There was no warning of the fire. No alarm. There was no alarm from smoke detectors, no working sprinkler system. Nothing. No notification at all."

Last night the owner of the Royal Jomtien Resort was not available to comment. He was in Bangkok - a two-hour drive away from the blaze scene - and was described as too shocked at the death of his daugh-

Deposed Cambodian leader pleads for US intervention

By Bronwen Maddox in washington and david watts

AMERICA is withdrawing 40 diplomats and their families from Cambodia and has urged other Americans, estimated at between 1,000 and L300, to leave immediately. A number of Britons left Phnom Penh yesterday on aircraft of the Royal Australian Air Force, and Japan has. for the first time since the war sent military aircraft into Thailand to pick up its Second Prime Minister Hun

In protest at the deteriorat-States has already suspended

aid to Cambodia for at least 30 days. Prince Norodom Ranariddh, ousted as Cambodian First Prime Minister at the weekend, arrived in Washington yesterday to plead for intervention to stop his coun-

try's hopes of peace and prosperity slipping away. On the fifth day of his shuttle round the globe to muster opposition to his rival. Secretary for Political Affairs. He was expected to call on the put on trial if he did.

United States and the United Nations not to recognise any government emerging from the weekend coup.

On Thursday in New York, after talks with the UN Security Council president, Peter Osvald, the Prince said he had also asked the council to appeal for mediation in the

In Cambodia, denying that he had carried out a coup, was not banned from returning, but said that he would be



Beilin: Britain suited to role in region

Israeli negotiator urges Britain to initiate new peace process

By Michael Binyon, diplomatic editor

THE Israeli architect of the Oslo accords said yesterday that the US had all but abandoned the Middle East peace process, and called on Britain to step in and lead a new

European-sponsored package. Yossi Beilin, the Opposition's foreign affairs spokesman, said the Americans "have just left some phone numbers for us to call when things start moving again". The situation was now explosive: for the going on anywhere and extremists

were gaining ground. Mr Beilin called for a new

package including a freeze on Israeli building at Har Homa, outside Jerusalem; agreement on a further Israeli interim withdrawal from occupied territory: and the beginning of talks on a final settlement.

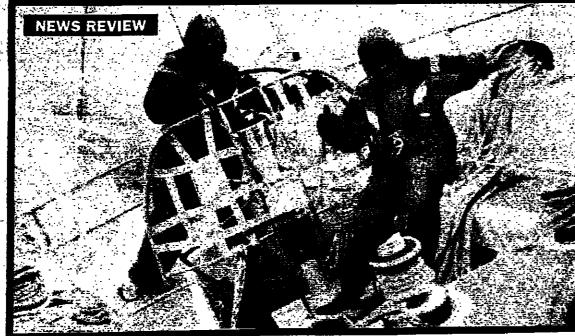
He said the level of mistrust between the Palestinians and Binyamin Netanyahu's Likud Government was so high that neither side would even consider a plan put forward by the other. A new

Britain, he said, was ideally suited for this role. It had long experience and deep knowledge of the Middle violence is almost inevitable".

East. It would hold the presidency of the European Union next year and lead the foreign policy troika. This could be a mission for the British presidency, he said. After talks with Robin Cook, he said Britain had not jumped at the idea "but nor did they throw me out of the window"

Mr Beilin said he could not guarantee that the Netanyahu Government would accept a British-led initiative. He thought the Palestintalks started again soon, "the room for misunderstanding is so big that





Tempers, tears and terror: the truth about the disabled crew racing round the world



KITSCH CHRIST How Elvis is being resurrected as a religion



MAGAZINE

CIMINE THE MONEY! The shark who puts the bite on football

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ANC ready to eat humble pie for sake of deal ending Inkatha feud

ALMOST miraculously in the eyes of many South Africans, the country appears to be on the verge of an historic peace deal between President Mandela's African National Congress and Chief Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party.

Since 1980 the two parties have been involved in a fratricidal struggle which has left 12,000 dead in South Africa's most populous province. KwaZulu/Natal, and which has sometimes led to fighting in the townships and hostels around Johannesburg.

The agreement, being considered by the two parties high commands for ratification will, if

Having made peace with the whites, President Mandela could bolster his status by befriending Chief Buthelezi, but the price may be heavy. writes R.W. Johnson in Johannesburg

itical stability and bring greater

investor confidence. The news that such an agree ment could be close has taken observers by surprise, because Inkatha's recently published proposals seem to leave much ground to be covered. Inkatha demanded that guarantees had to be given to the Zulu chiefs who are its key

basis of support, that the ANC make whatever arrangements are necessary so that KwaZulu-Natal's own provincial constitution previously struck down by the constitutional court — should nonetheless be put into place, and that the ANC take measures to help to erase the bloody past.

replace the Truth and Reconcilia-Zulu/Natal and says wrong-doers should be handed over to the courts. It is difficult to see how the ANC can concede such demands without this being read as an admission that the commission

has a pro-ANC bias. The Inkatha Freedom Party has also demanded public apologies from the ANC for its "vilification" of Chief Buthelezi in the past, a formal recanting of President Mandela's statement to the UN Security Council in 1992 that the Inkatha was a mere "surrogate" of apartheid, and an apology for the murder of more than 400 Inkatha develop the old Zulu capital, Ulundi, and an agreement on a programme for the common

Many of these requirements would be rejected by ANC activists, especially those in Kwa-Zulu/Natal, though observers have noted that the various demands for apology are ultimately merely requests for words and are, as such, easier to meet than more practical concerns. Such a deal would, however, bring considerable relief to the hard-pressed ANC, under pressure as a result of

growth and the extreme unpopularity of its free market economic policies with its own left wing.

A peace deal with Chief

Buthelezi, even if it means conceding him permanent power in KwaZulu/Natal, would replace left-wing support with reinforcement from the centre and would set the seal on the process of national reconciliation so dear to President Mandela's heart. Having made peace with the whites, Mr Mandela could then complete his presidency by finally reaching an agreement between two of South Africa's largest black

☐ Cover-up claim: South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission yesterday drew up a subpocna for Winnie Mandela to force her to answer questions about her activities in Soweto in the 1980s (Inigo Gilmore writes).

Amid accusations of a cover-up

involving access to Katiza Cebe-khulu, a key witness living in Britain, investigators admitted they may be unable to get "conclusive evidence" about her alleged crimes. Mr Cebekbulu is apparently the man who can allegedly link the President's former wife to the deaths of four youths in 1991.

Leading article, page 23

Opposition says revolution has begun in Kenya

KENYA'S Opposition yesterday claimed to be at the start. of a revolution, and vowed to disrupt elections later this year if the Government blocks political reforms. Ten MPs led by James

Orengo, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in parliament. said there would be no elections without reform of colonial-era laws, which have been used to break up political rallies and deny prominent campaigners such as Richard Leakey the right to form political parties. At the end of a week of

demonstrations which left up to 14 people dead, mostly victims of police bullets and clubs, Mr Orengo said: "The mood of the country is that there is a beginning of a revolution. The flame of change is flickering throughout this country.

The opposition MPs likened the changing mood among Kenvans to the revolution which drove Mobutu Sese Seko from power in Zaire.

Given the rivalries between several tribally based opposition parties, there is little chance that the "flame of change" will become a forest fire. But the crushing of demonstrations on Monday and dent Moi and sparked the states, (Glen Owen writes).

most significant mass movement for reform he has faced since inheriting the presidency from Jomo Kenyatta in 1979.

Twenty-two countries — including Britain, America and Japan. Kenya's biggest donor have condemned police violence, which included the teargassing of worshippers inside Nairobi's All Saints' Cathedral and the beating of a Presbyterian Moderator.

The IMF threatened to suspend a loan of \$280 million (Elpó million) to Kenya over the Government's refusal to prosecute businessmen and officials involved in a scandal in 1992 that cost Kenya E300 million - 10 per cent of gross national product.

The moves have enraged Mr Moi, 73, who has attacked

Sierra Leone is excluded

SIERRA LEONE has been suspended from taking part in Commonwealth meetings, following the military coup in May, it was announced yesterday by the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group. which

Britain and other Western countries for "interfering". In his first comment on the upheavals in Nairobi and other cities, he said foreign governments "have no moral authority to tell us to do what they don't practise at home. It is up to us to choose the type of democracy we want".

After bowing to international pressure to allow multiparty elections in 1992, President Moi has reneged on promised reforms and ap-pointed hardliners to his Cabinet in the run-up to elections later this year.

Chief among the hardliners is Nicholas Biwott, who Scotland Yard detectives said they most wanted to interview in connection with the murder of Robert Ouko, the Foreign Minister. in 1989. Mr Biwott was recently appointed Minister with responsibility for "internal security". Such moves have convinced

opposition leaders that widespread civil disobedience may be the only way to force Mr Moi to accept reforms. "Kenyans should ensure by all necessary means at their disposal that the general elections are not held before reforms are effected," Mr Orengo said.

His demand won the sup-Catholic organisations.



Swedish wine connoisseur, year-old bottle of champagne in Stockholm yesterday. It was one of about

Find puts fizz in history

wines that have been

1907 Heidsieck & Co - and seabed since the ship carrystores of cognac and fine ing them was torpedoed in October 1916 by a German champagne - identified as a after lying on the Baltic ketch Jonkoping was carry- war. (Reuter)

ing supplies for the Russian Tsar's army when it was attacked by U-boat 22. It had left the Swedish port of Gayle bound for Finland and St Petersburg. Sweden

FBI looks again for Alabama bombers

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

FEDERAL agents have reopened their investigation into the 1963 bombing of a Baptist church in Birmingham, Alabama, in which four young black girls died and 14 others were seriously injured.

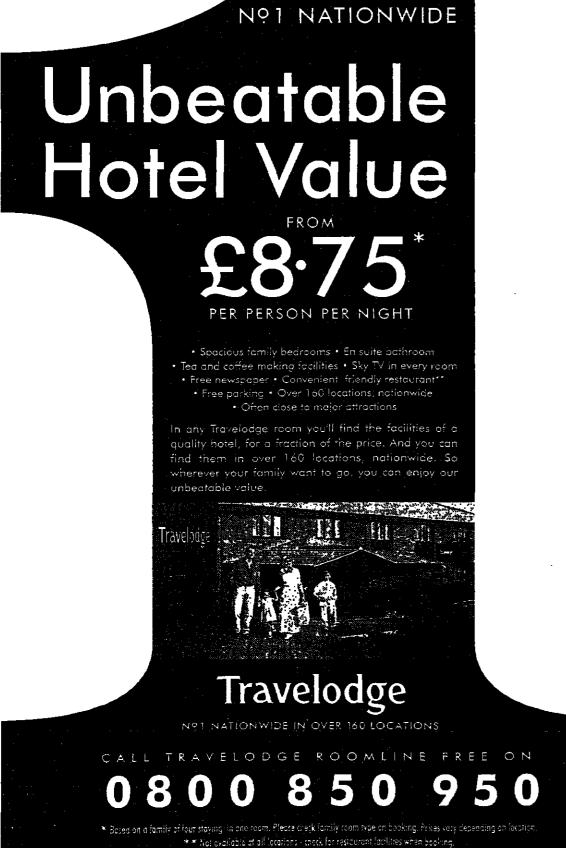
The bombing, which marked a turning point in the American civil rights movement of the 1960s, is widely regarded as being the worst single crime of the troubled

Although most people were convinced that the attack was the work of the Ku Klux Klan. only one man was charged. Evidence that he had at least three accomplices was ignored repeatedly by J. Edgar Hoover, the Director of the FBI.

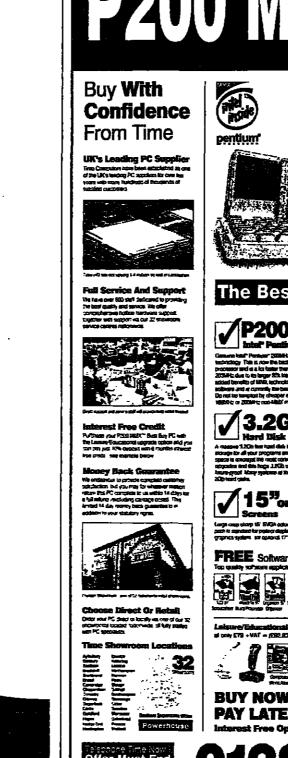
It is believed that he feared an investigation would expose FBI moles in the Klan. and that a widescale conviction of klansmen would play into the hands of his sworn enemy. Martin Luther King, the leader of the civil rights

movement Although the FBI denies it. the reopening of the case is due largely to the pressure provoked by a new film on the 1963 bombing, called Four Little Girls, by Spike Lee, the radical black director. The film was released in America earlier this week.

The man convicted of carrying out the bombing. Robert Chambliss, died in prison in ted his guilt.



عِلَدًا من الأصل





Bosnia Serbs accuse SAS snatch squad of 'assassination'

information machine swung into action yesterday, claiming that British SAS units assassinated Simo Drljaca, the indicted war crimes suspect, and that his colleague, Milan Kovacevic, had been taken by troops posing as Red Cross

FBI looks again for Alabama

bombers

Liljana Karadzic, head of the Republika Srpska Red Cross and wife of the Bosnian Serb leader, wrote a letter condemning the SAS action to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva. In Prijedor, a crowd of 2,000 protested in front of the town hall before marching on the local British troop command centre, shouting Ustashal murderers!" and demanding the return of Dr Kovacevic.

Momir Talic, the commander of the local Krajina corps of the Bosnian Serb Army, has accused the British troops involved of "cheating" the local population, and warned that the excellent relationship built up by the Stabilisation Force (Sfor) in the region could be in jeopardy. Mr Talic said his "scouts" had closely monitored the build-up to Operation Tango, and knew that SAS units had been brought in from outside. In Prijedor it is

even rumoured that local Serbs were used by the SAS to track Mr Drliaca. The govpapers in Bania Luka were also unsparing in The occupiers killed him," ran the headline in Glas Srpski, and Vecernje Novosti

said simply: "Nato hunts Serbs". The truth appeared to the Lubija opencast mine. be a casualty of the furore where the mainly Muslim-surrounding the SAS action, inmates of Omarska were the first time Nato troops in churned in heavy machinery Bosnia have struck against and buried beneath lime. If he suspected war criminals. Once ain. Boshian Serbs feet the are being victimised and there was dark talk of retaliation against foreigners.

What seems certain, however, is that Nam has been economical with details in its account of Thursday morning's fatal snatch operation. Two elderly peasants living opposite the lake where Mr Drijaca died spoke of their terror as British helicopters hovered and dropped smoke-bombs yards from their house.

"I thought the war was starting again." said Mira Bulic. There was smoke and so much shooting. I didn't dare to look." Radio Prijedor.

Peacekeepers are under attack after the operation to capture war crimes suspects, Tom Walker reports from Prijedor

cevic's office, one of the uni-

a notorious agent of "ethnic cleansing", claimed four helicopters had hovered above Mr Drijaca's lakeside trailer. while 20 troops jumped from four vehicles, two of them military, and ordered him outside. Mr Drijaca emerged in his bathing suit, it said, and ran for the beach, about 30 yards across a picnic area.

"They fired automatic weapons and he fell," said Zoran Baros, the station's editor. "A soldier went over to him and shot him twice in the head." Speaking in front of a portrait of Radovan Vandaria Radovan Karadzic, Mr Baros said the Prijedor police had collected the fateful bullets from the shingle, and had photographic evidence proving the slaughter of a defence-less Serb about to enjoy a morning's fishing.

"If they are capable of going into a hospital posing as the Red Cross, then they are capable of this," he said. "How can it be such a problem for 20 soldiers to take

6 They fired

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weapons and

soldier went

over and shot

him twice in

the head 9

he fell. A

on one man?" The track leading to Mr Drljaca's lakeside hideaway passes the haunt gravel lane winds past the village Omarska _and the remains of its notorious con

centration camp.

and then on past had reached the war crimes g in the r Mr Drijaca would have been questioned over his involve ment in up to 5,000 deaths and disappearances.

It is an eerie landscape of rusting machinery and redundant railyards, nestled amid the folds of rolling Serb pasture. An Orthodox church stands just yards from where Mr Drijaca fell; on the shingle two wreaths of flowers and candles marked the soot. Small patches of the pebbles and grit were stained dark with blood; Mr Drljaca's trailer had been removed, again by the Prijedor police. "What the

brought out their pistols and dragged out Dr Kovacevic, pushing him down the corridor and into a waiting van with no registration plates. The man in civilian clothes against God," said Mrs Bulic's was described as speaking sister Bosiljka, echoing a fagood Serbo-Croat, and may miliar theme on the streets of not have been British. Prijedor, where Mr Drijaca ☐ Moscow: Russia yesterday

pushed her aside. She said the

man's two companions then

was described by many as an condemned the British miliupstanding citizen, a family tary's operation in Bosnia, and man and patriot. accused London of jeopardis-Attracting equal controversy is the raid on Prijedor hospital. Dobrila Rodic, Dr Kovacevic's secretary, described on Radio Prijedor ing the Dayton peace agreement (Richard Beeston writes). The Russian Foreign Ministry said that, as a member of Sfor, it refused to share how three uniformed men and any responsibility for the acone in civilian dress had arrived bearing a parcel from tion. The apprehension of suspects is not included in the the "Red Cross in Belgrade". mandate of multinational Mrs Rodic said that, as she forces," it said. opened the door to Dr Kova-

Letters, page 23





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Refusal to give MS victim new drug was illegal

A MAN with multiple scierosis yesterday won his legal battle against a health authority that refused to fund his treatment with a new drug prescribed by neurologists.

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North Derbyshire Health Authority's attitude towards Kenneth Fisher, from whom it withheld supplies of betainterferon costing £10,000 a year, was disingenuous and unlawful. Mr Justice Dyson said at the High Court.

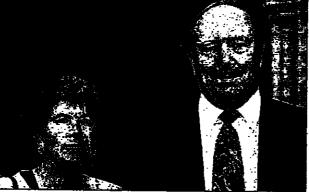
He ordered the authority to introduce a lawful policy and reconsider within 14 days its decision to deny the treatment. Mr Fisher, 33, was not in pleased with the judgment. "My son is poorly now. He has got to the stage where he is dependent. He wasn't that 18

months ago. He has been denied the drugs and that is where the deterioration has come." The family, from Dronfield, Derbyshire, are to take legal advice on whether to sue the authority. Kenneth Fisher's mother Margaret said: "I am just upset that it has taken so long."

The health authority was

ordered to pay the costs of the action, estimated to be several times the annual cost of treating an MS sufferer. The judge said that it knowingly failed to apply national guidance in an NHS circular and also knew that its own policy amounted court. After the hearing, his to a blanket ban on funding father Ian, 59, said he was treatment of local MS

He said that unacceptable and inconsistent excuses were given in an effort "to hold the



Margaret and Ian Fisher at the High Court yesterday

line and hang on to their unsustainable position". Creative constraints had been applied to withhold funding. including the excuse that the authority would provide funds for only those patients involved in a national clinical trial of the drug.

The 14-day deadline followed a submission by John Grace, QC, that Mr Fisher's condition had deteriorated since being refused the drug 18 months ago, and that the time factor could be crucial. The court was told that Mr Fisher, who is unable to work, was diagnosed with MS in 1987 and that if he had lived only a mile further north, in Sheffield, he would have had no difficulty obtaining it.

Although the health authority had set aside funds and promised treatment, Mr Grace said that the decision to deny Mr Fisher had been taken for purely financial reasons. The judgment will force North Derbyshire to "reconider" its policy and to pay for Mr Fisher's treatment if consultants judge that he would still benefit

North Derbyshire Health Authority said that it would review policy and identify possible sources of increased funding. A spokesman said: "We have a preferred policy to support drugs and treatments with proven positive clinical outcomes."

Other patients will pay price of court ruling

MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

PATIENTS throughout the country will suffer the conseuences of yesterday's High

To pay for beta interferon, health authorities will have to save money elsewhere. One senior official said: "fewill be a case of robbing two Peters to

Stephen Thornton, head of the health authority group of the National Health Service Confederation, said that treatment with the drug would become a priority. "We know that multiple scierosis sufferers can benefit from this but because it is so expensive we can only provide it if we stop treatment for others. That is the sort of horrid dilemma we are facing."

Mr Thornton is chief executive of Cambridge and Hun-tingdon Health Authority, which was heavily criticised

treatment for a child with cancer, Jaymee Bowen. He said that particular decision had been taken on medical grounds but added: "Unless we get a 3 per cent increase of funds in real terms every year these very difficult decisions are going to get worse and worse. The Budget gave us an extra £1.2 billion but even that

Beta-interferon is a genetically modified interferon protein that protects against viral infections. In some illnesses, including MS. these natural proteins are misidentified attacked and

does not provide the 3 per cent

destroyed by the immune The drug helps to prevent the body's immune system from attacking itself. It has to be kept refrigerated and the patient injects it every other day. It is not a cure and works

best with patients who suffer

periods of remission. Although it could benefit about 10,000 MS sufferers in Britain, only about 1,000 are being treated with it. The NHS Executive issued

guidelines to health authorities when the drug was licensed in Britain two years ago. The High Court held that these guidelines amounted to an instruction that the drug should be available to those atients that neurologists be lieved would benefit from it.

Dr Vivienne Nathanson the British Medical Association's head of health policy, said: "We need to get away from the lottery which means that a patient's access to treatment can depend on their postcode. Although there are national prescribing guidelines for some new drugs, for most drugs and treatment there is no guidance and health authorities have to make very tough decisions."



Ballet teacher wins case but not a new job

By A Staff Reporter

A TEACHER at the Royal Ballet School yesterday won her claim for unfait dismissal but failed to get her job back. Linda Goss. 44, who taught for eight years at the £20,000-a-year boarding school, had said she was sacked because she complained repeatedly that children were bullied and

mocked by staff. An industrial tribunal in Croydon, south London, agreed that the dismissal was unfair but said that it was made because the school needed to make staff changes and not because of victimisation after her complaints. How-ever, staff had not discussed the matter with her or given any consideration to her

Ms Goss, from Dartmouth. Devon, who had been refused reinstatement to her £27,000a-year job, was awarded £11,300 compensation. She told the tribunal that she had felt sacrificed when she learnt that her contract would not be renewed and linked this to her allegations that children were overworked and humiliated.

The former dancer with the Bolshoi Ballet said that her job at the school in Richmond, southwest London, was her life. She had been unable to find work since and was considering going abroad.

The tribunal dismissed a

claim of sexual discrimination by Ms Goss, who claimed that a male teacher. Anatoli Grigoriev, was given preferential treatment over her and was

Dame Merle Park, the director of the school, said reinstatement would be "totally inappropriate because of what Ms Goss had said during the hearing. "The allegations that have been made of the management, the staff, her colleagues, means | relationships have been soured and we have no trust and confidence in Linda.

Kray wedding photos will be for the family's eyes only

HOME CORRESPONDENT

REGGIE KRAY has not been allowed to organise his own wedding photographs because it was feared they would be sold to the media. A Prison Service photographer will take the official pictures of Kray. 63, and his bride, Roberta Jones, 38, at the ceremony in the chapel of Maidstone jail on

Monday. The couple will each be

copyright will remain with the Home Office in an attempt to stop publication. Kray's twin brother, Ronnie, died two

The Prison Service took the decision amid suspicions that pictures of the wedding would be offered to the media for E10,000. A spokesman said last night: "A Prison Service photographer will take photos of the wedding. No other photographer will be permit-

will remain with the Home Office. Anyone publishing the the law, and would be prose-

cuted accordingly." Kray is in the twenty-ninth year of a 30-year sentence imposed for the murder of Jack "The Hat" McVitie. He met Ms Jones a year ago when she visited the jail in Kent. His first wife, Frances, committed suicide two years after they

married in 1965.





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THE TIMES SATURDAY JULY 12 1997

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Gun test throws doubt on King

> By Tunku Varadarajan IN NEW YORK

NEW forensic evidence suggests that James Earl Ray, convicted of the murder of Martin Luther King Jr. may have been jailed for a crime he did not

Doubts about his trial emerged yesterday after a judge in Memphis, Ten-nessee, said that test bullets fired from a rifle owned by James Earl Ray had marks that differed from the bullet which killed King. Ray, who has always protested his innocence, is serving a 99-year jail sentence for the assassination in 1968 of the

black civil rights leader. Reporting his conclu-sions on forensic tests. Judge Joe Brown, of the Memphis Criminal Court, said: "The comparison [between the bullets revealed that the gross and unique characteristic signature left on the I2 test bullets by the James Earl Ray rifle was not present on the death bullet."

His observations, which should excite lawyers and conspiracy theorists alike, come after tests in a laboratory, where scientists fired Ray's gun into a tank of water, later analysing the bullets under a microscope. Ray's lawyers hope that the new evidence is compelling enough to win their client a retrial.

Ray was convicted in 1968 after he pleaded guilty. He recanted days later, saying that he entered the plea only to avoid the death penalty. His guilty plea has been up-held eight times by a variety of state and federal



From Richard Beeston in moscow

PRESIDENT YELTSIN left er's two-month holiday in the little to chance this week when he embarked on a fishing trip in northern Russia: aircraft were scrambled to clear rain clouds, and a lake was stocked with thousands of fish to ensure the Kremlin leader had plenty to catch.

Although the Russian lead-



northern lakes region of Karelia was supposed to be a quiet family break to lorget the trappings of office and pres-sures of the job, behind the scenes a small army of Kremlin officials has been on hand to ensure the trip goes

Following in the tradition of Soviet leaders, who even in their dotage insisted on shooting semi-tame bears and boars to prove their prowess, nothing was left to chance when the Russian leader cast his line into Lake Ukshe. Anatoli Tsigankov, the edi-

tor of the local Karelian newspaper, said locals first knew of the arrival of their grand visitor when the authorities banned them from going on



Boris Yeltsin and his wife Naina enjoy their holiday earlier this week. The President has taken up fishing after being banned from shooting

now established for the sum-

Then, despite a spate of bad weather, he said the climate suddenly changed — thanks to the expensive intervention of light aircraft designed to seed

approaching rainclouds. By far the best touch was provided by the Karelian Fisheries Commission, which was so eager to please its guest that it stocked the lake with thousands of extra fish.

"We were told by the city administration to make sure Yeltsin had a good time, and that is what we are doing." said a fisheries official, following the tradition of Prince

Potemkin, whose fake villages so impressed Catherine the

There are probably an extra 10,000 fish that were specially stocked for the President," the official told the St Petersburg Times.

Kremlin sources said the President was also receiving covert help from his body-guards, who set off each morning to dig up worms for their boss to use as bait.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the Kremlin leader appears to be notching up record catches.

mer at the presidential residence at Shuya, said this week that her husband came home one day with 20 lish and the next with 30, mainly perch and roach. "Some were very small, but still very tasty," she

said. "I think the water is very

good here." While the President's arrival may be bad news for Karelia's fish population, the region's four-legged and feathered animals can rest easy at least while Mrs Yeltsin is on

The Kremlin leader's love of

fishing is surpassed only by ical leaders have gone to great his passion for shooting, and even during his illness last year he claimed to have shot scores of duck and a large wild children. boar. However, since his heart The move, according to local operation last year he has been banned by his wife from

picking up a gun and has concentrated his efforts on Mr Yeltsin's absence from Moscow has prompted many other senior Russian figures to escape the heat and dust and head for the countryside or beach. The difference this year lengths to advertise the fact that they are spending their holidays with their wives and

reports, was prompted by the alyov, the former Justice Minister, who was recorded on a secret video taking part in an orgy held at a sauna frequented by Russian mobsters. Other politicians have apparently also been filmed in compromising positions. No one wants to become the next

Flame of Albanian unrest threatens Macedonian tinderbox

FROM JAMES PETTIFER IN TETOVO

TENSION gripped western Macedonia yesterday with frequent roadblocks and a heavy special forces presence after an outbreak of violence which left two young ethnic Albanians dead and 40 people with serious gunshot wounds.

More than 200 people were taken to hospital after fighting broke out in

Gostivar near here on Wednesday. Rufi Osmali, the newly-elected radical Mayor, has been arrested and accused of inciting the violence.

About a quarter of the population Macedonia, long regarded as the tinderbox of the southern Balkans, are ethnic Albanians, most of whom live in traditional Muslim communities in the western mountains. Since the fall of communism, the border with Albania has been opened, and links renewed. At the same time,

nationalist feelings in these communities has grown.

A dispute about the right to fly the Albanian flag erupted when US-trained Macedonian special forces moved into the town with armoured vehicles at about 3am on Wednesday. surrounded the town hall, and broke

Five hours later an angry Albanian crowd gathered and tried to eject them. Scuffles broke out, followed by bursts of gunfire. The Macedonian day claimed the special forces "were helping people who were being attacked by terrorists".

What is indisputable in the fog of claims and counterclaims is that Albanians also used weapons, possibly brought across the border, and that disturbances continued all day.

Although the Macedonian action has succeeded in stopping for the time being what is seen as a

version reported on television yester- a heavy price to pay in community relations. The Albanians are sufficiently numerous to have a right of veto over the future of the state. The use of weapons by both sides must reinforce the West's fears of the spread of violence from Albania.

As far as can be established, units of the United Nations peacekeeping force based in Tetovo did not play any part in the events. Yesterday they appeared to be confined to barracks





Spain prays for hostage tacing death deadline

FROM GILES TREMLETT IN MADRID

SPAIN is awaiting with horror the threatened murder today by the Basque separatist group Eta of a kidnapped town councillor from the Prime Minister's Popular

Eta has said it will kill Miguel Angel Blanco. 29, if José Maria Aznar's conservative Government does not immediately bow to its demands. The separatist group wants its prisoners — there are more than 500 in Spanish jails - moved to jails in the northern Basque region.

Señor Aznar's Government has repeatedly said it will not bow to Eta's blackmail and the demands are logistically impossible in the time-limit given: the deadline is 4pm Spanish time today.

Eta knows its conditions are impossible," a joint statement from the Popular Party and Spain's other principal political parties said. "This is a death sentence with a deadline." The Pope appealed for



Blanco: Pope called on

the release of Señor Blanco, calling the death threat an offence to human and Christian conscience" and "an act of terrorism", in a message to the Bishop of Bilbao. Ricardo lence which offends human and Christian conscience", the Pope said.

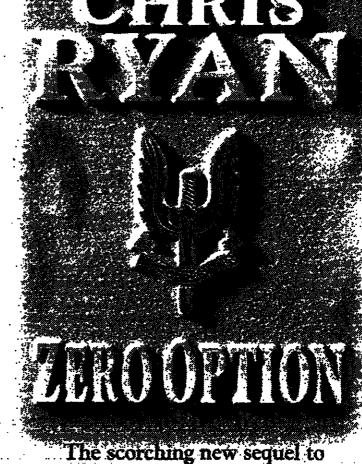
Hundreds of thousands of people took part in silent protests in town squares across Spain yesterday. Peace groups organised all-night co's home town of Ermua, near Bilbao, northern Spain, and in other Basque towns, to urge Eta to spare his life. Television programmes on most channels carried the symbol of a blue ribbon in one protest against Eta's action.

Police were scouring the Basque country for the young councillor and his kidnap pers. Señor Blanco was abducted on Thursday after having lunch at his family's home in Ermua, where he is one of the four Popular Party councillors. He had been due to take a train to the nearby town of Eibar, where he works as a financial consultant.

Later in the afternoon an Eta representative called a Basque newspaper to say Señor Blanco had been kidnapped and would be killed if the prisoners were not moved within 48 hours.

☐ Brussels: About 300 Spanish EU officials staged a "silent protest" here over the death threat (AFP)

From the bestselling author of THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY DHRIS



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Tsarist capital emerges from Moscow's shadow with its own ideas on high and low culture

Treasure house of art offers war booty deal

cently declared that St Peters-Russia's cultural capital, he never expected the city to take

him so seriously. After decades of struggling to overcome Moscow's domination, the beautiful but dilapidated Tsarist capital is finally begining to shake off its provinci-

ality and do things its own way.

Certainly that was the message this week from Mikhail Piotrovsky, the director of the Hermitage Museum, Russia's greatest cultural treasure, who boldly entered the political minefield surrounding the fate of "trophy art".

Russia has so far steadfastly refused to return any of the estimated 200,000 art treasures plundered by Soviet troops after the Second World War. The fate of the booty, worth billions of pounds, is

New life for a baroque relic

EIGHTY years after it was appropriated by the Bolsheviks, a small corner of St Petersburg that is forever British may finally be returned to its rightful owners. The Anglican church, situated appropriately on the English Embankment, is an 18th-century baroque masterpiece built to serve the once thriving British

community, living in the then Tsarist In spite of the indifference of its permanently.

by RICHARD BEESTON currently being decided by President Yeltsin, who has the final say on a Bill

ST PETERSBURG

FILE

Russian property. "Frankly, the issue will never be resolved if we leave it up to the politicians," said Mr Piotrovsky, who advocates a compromise between the former belligerents. "We will never get anywhere if we have the 'I won, you lost'

Under his plan, the fate of the war booty would be negotiated over two or

Communist owners, and the threat to its

survival during the bloody siege of

Leningrad by the Germans, the church

has pulled through intact with the original altar, font and even the organ

still in place. Although the building is

currently being used as a souvenir shop, the first service in eight decades was held

there last year by a Royal Navy chaplain

and there are moves to retrieve it

deal. It received several hundred pricecalling for all art treasures to be declared less works from its share of the booty. including scores of French Impressionist paintings, revealed in a stunning exhibition two years ago. The proposal, while based on the principle of compromise, is also a product of St Petersburg's more assertive

attitude. The Hermitage, which once depended on shrinking government handouts for survival, now raises a third of its annual budget through fundraising, much of it from foreign Similarly, while Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre is struggling to survive and

dividing the treasures in half

have told the that they would

Kirov's ballet and opera companies in St Petersburg have gone from strength to strength.

While it may be too early to predict the city's rehabilitation after decades of Communist neglect, a new and energetic Mayor in St Petersburg and a sharp increase in outside investment suggest that the city may be returning to its

maintain its sinking reputation, the



Mikhail Piotrovsky of the Hermitage, who is offering to share war booty

Big Brother is watching your sofa

ST PETERSBURG'S best 24-hour live soap opera will come to a close next week, when fans will pay their final visit to the Simpo furniture shop and say goodbye to Sergei and Natasha.

goodbye to Serget and Natasha.

The good-looking young couple have been the centre of attention since an advertising company offered to give them all the furniture in the shop window — worth more than £3,000 — if they became live displays for a fortnight.

Although the lavatory is out of sight and the couple's large double bed is discreetly hidden behind a screen, everything else they do is in full view of passers by on Savushkina Street. While attracting mild curiosity at first,

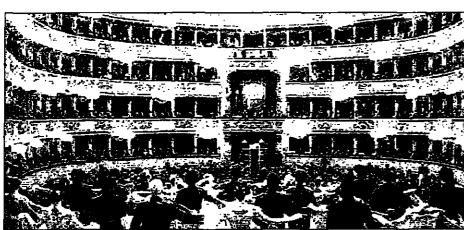
the couple's activities turned into a political issue when 20 Bolsheviks pricketed the shop, protesting against "this disgusting show, which debases intimate relationships and contradicts the moral standards of the Slavs".

The controversy became a sensation when it was revealed that the couple were not newlyweds, as claimed. Indeed, Sergei was married to someone else - a spectator on the street.

In spite of the disclosure, the couple stuck it out as furniture shoppers, journalists and friends streamed through their living room, testing out sofas, asking personal questions and helping themselves to cups of coffee. Naturally, the advertisers who ar-

ranged the display are delighted and the city is already waiting for the arrival of

Chorus of alarm raised in Milan over La Scala privatisation plan



18th-century operatic opulence hides the failings of La Scala's stage and orchestra pit

WHEN the final production of La Scala's current opera season - an "erotic and anti-Papist" modern dress production of Puccini's Tosca — was booed this month, Paolo Arca. the artistic director at the Milan opera house, said the whistles and catcalls were "at least a sign that our productions still invoke passion and

But as La Scala takes a summer break before returning with Donizetti's Lucia di Lammermoor in the autumn.

"Scala 2001" scheme to renovate its 18th-century home and reorganise its finances. Riccardo Muti, the celebrated conductor and La Scala's musical director, noted that the "inadequacies" of the theatre's stage, orchestra pit and backstage facilities meant that

quality was "bound to suffer". Asked by La Repubblica about plans to restore the theatre to its 1778 glory for the millennium, Signor Muti said he hoped the "La Scala 2001" project would not become bogged down in an endless series of bureaucratic wranequivalent of 2001, A Space Odyssey". The paper commented that, if La Scala did not put its house in order,

Muti might "pack his bags". The decision to renovate La Scala follows the introduction of more stringent safety regulations after disastrous fires at the Petruzzelli opera house at Bari and La Fenice opera house in Venice. The board of La Scala recently voted to move to a new auditorium in the depressed "post-industrial" suburb of La Bicocca, in northeast Milan, on the site of a former Pirelli tyre factory. This would allow Piermarini's

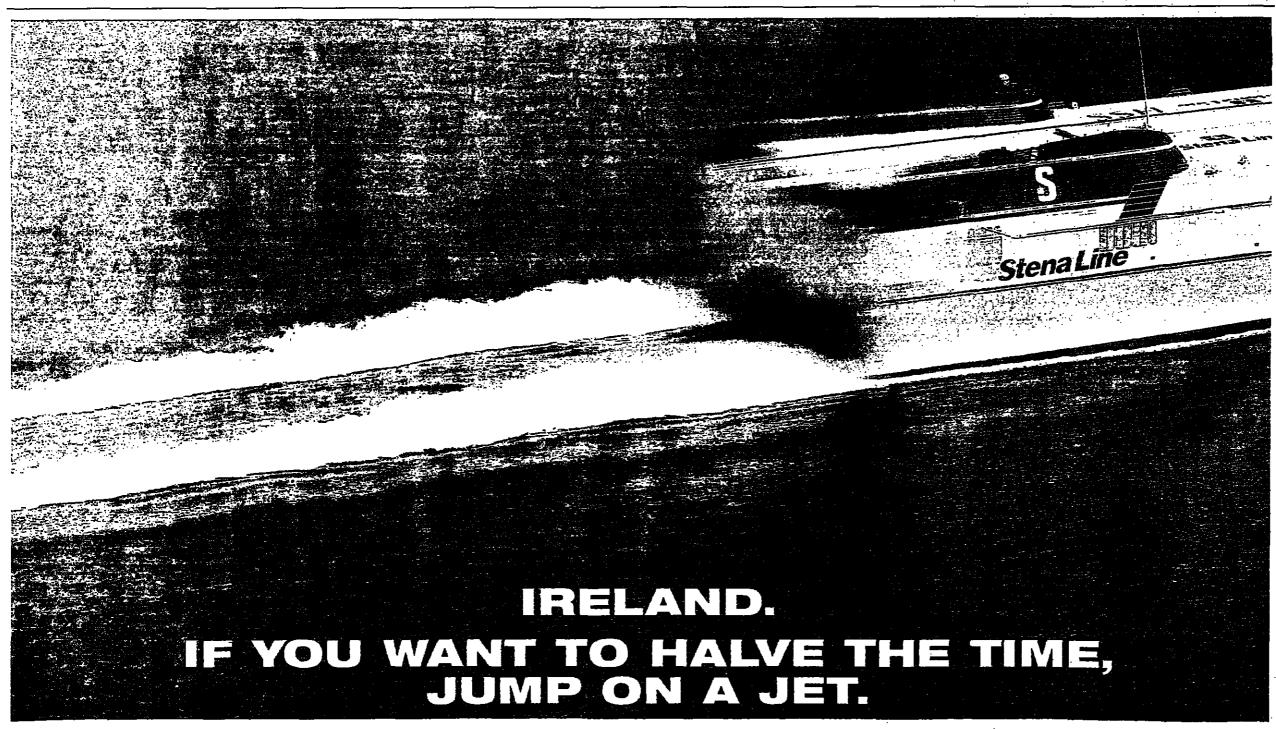
centre of Milan to be refitted and upgraded.

But an investigation into "irregularities" over the award of La Bicocca's building contract has held up the project, and the proposed 2,500-seat auditorium is still on the drawing board. Carlo Fontana, La Scala's Superintendent, has described the situation as "an emergency", vowing not to leave the present site without a guarantee that the orchestra and chorus will be back "well in time for January 2001".

Signor Fontana and the theatre management are

meanwhile pinning their hopes on a scheme for partial privatisation of La Scala. Under a radical plan provisionally approved by the board last month, the state would continue to provide half the annual £50 million budget, but a consortium of banks and companies - including Pirelli - would provide badly needed investment.

In a move which has shocked some more traditionally minded opera patrons, the private investors have also offered to generate profit-making ideas, including the marketing of La Scala products to cash in on its reputation.

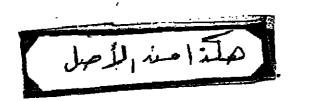


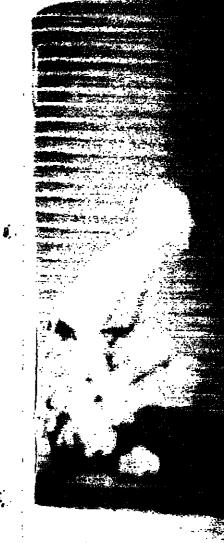
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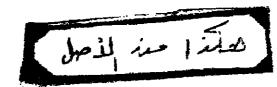


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The nation has need of its hereditary piers

in May I saw a glorious specire. She seemed to float on the sea, out beyond the Grand Hotel, and at night her newly lit contours danced on the waves like a thousand candles. Locals rubbed their eyes. Hadn't this old lady died more than 20 years ago? If The Flying Dutchman itself had anchored off Rottingdean the solid citizens of East Sussex couldn't have been more startled. Somebody, somehow, had resurrected the venerable West Pier.

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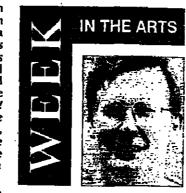
Anybody who cares about the British seaside would have responded as I did to that startling offshore rebirth: with a mixture of intense pleasure and deep sadness. The pleasure comes in seeing one of the most exotic miracles of Victorian construction — the only Grade I listed pier in Britain gradually being restored to something like its former, 1,000ft glory. Of course, gradual is the word: a £950,000 lottery grant has so far barely been enough to hoist some sturdy walkways across the decayed structure. The small matter of E35 million needs to be raised if the West Pier is to rejoin its slightly less majestic eastward twin, the Palace Pier, in full, kiss-me-quick

But the trust that now owns the you think about it.

West Pier is confident that with another £4 million pledged from the lottery and £10 million from a private developer enough progress can be made for the pier to start its working life again. That will please such diverse spirits as Lord Attenborough, who filmed those bitter-sweet chorus scenes in Oh! What A Lovely War there, and the eccentric boxer Chris Eubank, who was so enamoured of the rusting hulk that at one stage he planned to buy it and build a house on the end.

So why the sadness? Well, because the renaissance that is happening in Brighton could so easily be mirrored right across the British seaside, if only we took more pride in the fantastical maritime architecture to be found mostly decayed, defiled or derelict - in practically every coastal resort.

Some people hold an unshakeably pessimistic opinion of our seaside, believing it was doomed to a slow, sordid death from the moment that God created the 4.30am Luton-to-Benidorm jumbo. Even the man from the English Tourist Board was downbeat about our bracing maritime delights when I phoned him this week - which is a bit sad, when



RICHARD MORRISON

"You have to remember," he said gloomily, "that a whole generation of Britons has now reached adulthood without ever holidaying at a British seaside resort."

But perhaps the ETB has good cause to be depressed. Last year (the "Year of the Pier"), in partnership with the National Trust, it put together what many thought was a brilliant millennium lottery bid: £25 million to finance more than 200 imaginative seaside projects around the country. They included new uses for disused lighthouses, new coastal paths, restoration schemes for promenades, piers and pavilions, public art trails,

exciting environmental projects.

The Millennium Commission threw the bid out. What a shortsighted, unromantic bunch! Perhaps, like Disraeli, they "can't see the use of the sea". Approving PVC domes is more their style. True, the ETB scheme did not include a remedy for every piece of barnacled cast-iron Victoriana now poking into the Channel. But it could have given huge impetus to the notion of Britain putting its seafront in order by the year 2000.

Happily. many individual projects have gone ahead anyway. financed by lottery money from the (more enlightened) Heritage Fund. or by local authorities that have belatedly woken up to the potential of their tarnished jewels, or by commercial operators determined to make the British seaside profitable again.

Cromer, on the raw Norfolk coast, rebuilt its pier with magnificent speed when a runaway tug sliced it up in 1994, so that "the last authentic end-of-the-pier show (with certainly the last authentic end-of-the-pier jokes) can go on pulling in 40,000 punters each summer Blackpool in tandem with First Leisure (which owns the three superb piers), is spending £9 million on the seafront. Bridlington has rebuilt its pier for £5

going a visionary £20 million upgrade, with the emphasis on green" projects. Weston-super-Mare has erected Britain's first new pier for decades, and Clacton is giving its clifftop Memorial Gardens a £416,000 makeover. Clevedon has spent a similar sum restoring its pier. There are even cock-eyed optimists in Essex who believe that they can resuscitate Southend Pier, the world's longest, but also the most ill-fated, raked by fires in 1976, 1977 and 1995, and cut in half by an errant coaster in 1988.

ut there is much still to be B done. Half of Britain's 43 extant Victorian and Edwardian piers are in private hands, and many owners are on the brink of giving up the struggle to keep them open. They feel, with some justification, that those who dole out lottery largesse are biased against them. Many coastal local authorities, too, turn a blind eye to the squalor on their own seafment. as though it has nothing to do with the chronic unemployment in their region. Get real, councillors!

The British seaside was once the playground of an Empire, and a refreshment to its greatest creative spirits. Elgar conducted on Brighton West Pier. Turner, Constable. field and many others famously drew inspiration from our coasts. Debussy was French, but he was sensible enough to compose his maritime masterpiece. La Mer. at Eastbourne, Conrad was Polish, but when he noted that in Britain "men and sea interpenetrate" he put his finger on our national

Of course we will never return to an era when the vast majority of Britons holidayed for a fortnight at a British seaside resort; not unless global warming takes a dramatic turn for the worse. But a bit of imaginative leadership from on high, allied to a compuratively small amount of lottery funding. could revitalise our coastal culture.

They could again become destinations of first choice for daytrippers and foreign tourists. instead of lagging well behind inland theme parks and heritage sites. And we could all approach our seafronts with a childlike thrill of anticipation, instead of with the weary expectation of encountering a seedy and often rather sinister dilapidation that would not be tolerated in our most depressed

You think I'm exaggerating? Well, summer has arrived. Go and see for yourself.

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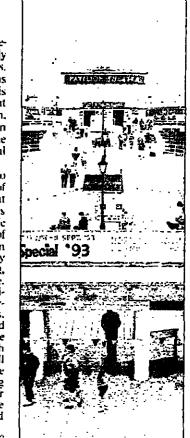
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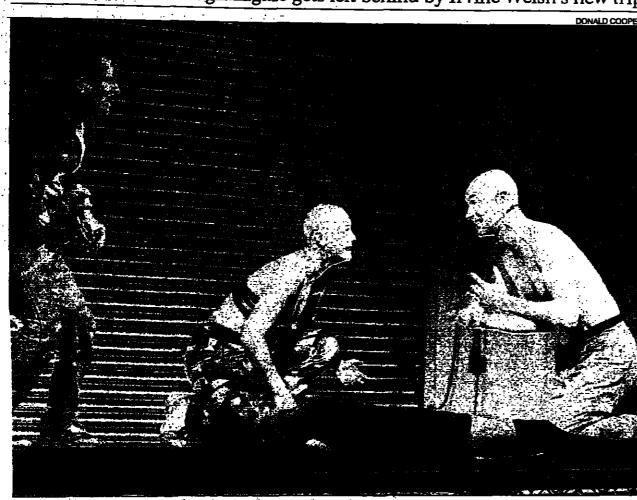
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THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale gets left behind by Irvine Welsh's new trip



(From left): Jan Knightley, Denise Evans, a supine Michelle Gomez and Tam Dean Burn in Irvine Welsh's Headstate

The venue is a pretty warehouse-cum-lighthouse that looks across the Thames to he jumble of slag and cranes vhere the Millennium Dome vill or will not be built. The place was once used for storng buoys, masts and the sort f stuff that nowadays you night find in a nautical museım in Greenwich itself. But let ю nostalgic tar take his lad on field trip to Trinity Buoy Vharf just now Davey Jones's ocker would make comfier isiting than the urban hellrole into which the Greenwich nd Docklands Festival has emporarily transformed the

It is easy to believe that rvine Welsh, author of rainsporting, is one of the egeners of Headstate. It is ust as unsurprising that his o-devisers are the abrasive dinburgh company Boilerouse. In the programme its erformers suggest a dictio-.

A bit of a bummer

Thaity Buoy Whair, £14

nary definition for themselves. "Boilerhouse: stab, jab, push, thrill, cajole, seduce, confront and invent," Myself, I would add "deafen, blind, confuse and annoy", but you will get

This is acid house Welsh, Trainspotting with strobe lights, rave music and robust

is a butcher and part-time pusher, that Tina is his lover and a drug addict, that John is a no-hoper who falls for a woman who wears a T-shirt with the word Angel embossed on it, and that Angel is trying to rescue them from themselves. Anyway, Tina is pestered by parents who want her to go to

university and denied her babies by social service apparatchiks whose line, "You don't have the maturity or financial security to look after them", echoes, camp-commandant style, around the warehouse. Meanwhile, horrible, sneering Martin decides that people are just live meat, lets his store of dead meat rot, and forces poor John to become his pet dog.

But it is evident that Martin

Together, they bombard Angel to death with cardboard boxes, and are left wondering whether or not to pickle her in formaldehyde and hire her out necrophiliacs.

With words like "capitalism" and "consumerism" surfacing, Welsh and Boilerhouse presumably think they have something to say about our society. But that would need more analysis and less impressionistic ado. Myself, I felt that Boilerhouse was simply boilerhousing away, and to decidedly off-putting effect.

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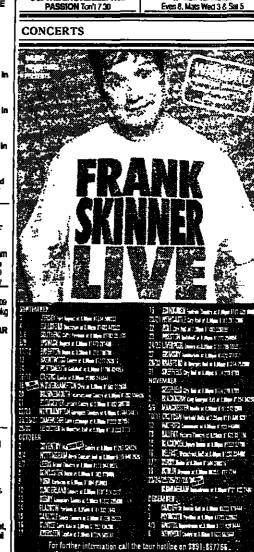
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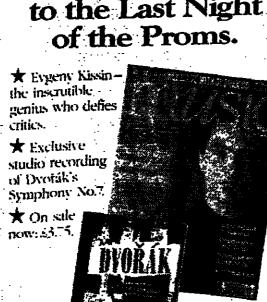


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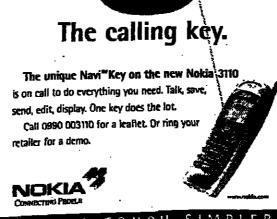




its portrait of young people in chaos. For a time, I thought the evening would consist of nothing but eye-splintering flashes of red and white in the murk. But then silhouettes appear, the first of many fourletter words is distantly heard, people clamber on rod-andmesh platforms that trundle past the audience's puzzled little faces. and something discernible as a situation

I never worked out who was playing whom, because the Denise Evans, Michelle Gomez and Jan Knightley. Nor was I always sure what was going on, for Welsh kept playing games with chronology and clarity, and burbles of incomprensible Scots invective sometimes came from parts of the warehouse where I wasn't standing.

programme baldly lists the cast as Tam Dean Burn,



Philip Howard



Foxhunting is a dull ride, an excuse to be rude, and a jolly good read

abeas brush is not so fundamental a human right as habeas corpus. We have made cocklighting, trial by ordeal and prizefighting illegal without completely destroying our liberties won by Magna Carta. The best argument against hunting is its cruelty. The best argument for letting Yoicks Tallyhoery "Whoo-oop, at him Hannibal" gallop on is that the State should not ban activities unless they cause real public nuisance or offence. I would prohibit hare-coursing: the hare is a beautiful creature which screams pitiably when caught, and is already doomed by the pesticides and fertilisers of rapacious grain

Class war has been part of hunting since the Norman aristos made poaching a capital offence. The man on the horse looks down on the pedestrian, and the man on foot looks up at the horseman with mutual suspicion. To kill a fox by any method other than the approved one - of hunting it with hounds and on horseback - is regarded as little better than criminal. And to misuse hunting terminology, for example by calling hounds "dogs" or a "pink" coat red, is to betray not merely laughable ignorance but also shameful evidence of ill-breeding. While I was walking in the Borders, a fox ran into a drain. Shortly afterwards a huntress from the Duke of Buccleuch's rode up side-saddle, in full monte of bowler, veil and skin-tight jodhpurs. Daphne: "Did the fawx come this way?" PH, surprised into berrayal: "It went down that drain." Daphne, with withering scorn: "You mean it went to greound."

Nevertheless, the countrymen made a touching sight in Hyde Park, especially those who had driven there from Brown's Hotel in their Rollers and dressed down for the occasion. There are more foxes in Hyde Park now than there are in the Shire parasuburbs. Hounds are lovely dawgs, unless you are a fox. And on foxhunting I am an agnostic. There must be more important things for Government to do than ban it. And hunting will naturally fade away anyway, because of intensive farming. Hunters no longer charge like cavalry through open country. They spend most of their time sitting in queues like motorists in a tailback.

But an extensive and peculiar genre of literature will fade away with hunting. What would be left of traditional ballads if you took away the horse and the hound from their haunting, hunting verses? Hunting was a stock topic of the earliest poetry, from Odysseus's tell-tale scar and the labours of Hercules. English literature begins with Beowulf hunting the monster Grendel in East Anglian fens and carries on with Sir with the first of the huntin' and bonkin' novels. Hunting runs through the works of the Stratford boy. Theseus: "My hounds are bred out of the Spartan kind," So flew'd, so sanded: and their heads are hung/ With ears that sweep away the morning dew." Siegfried Sassoun satirised the horrors of war beside the absurdity of foxhunting.

port, because it excites intense transient emotion, is a field for poetry. Cricket and golf make popular poetry. because they are so complicated. Running and throwing the discus make poetry, because they are simple. But hunting has made more poetry than all of them. John Masefield is one of the Poet Laureates who did hunting, at length, in Revnard the Fox. The fox knew well that before they tore him,/ They should try their speed on the downs before him." Masefield was prudent to let the fox escape by going to earth at the end. Even those who consider horses thicker creatures even than their worshippers can thrill to Stubbs, especially Whistlejacket seen with a bubble saying "How much longer do I have to hold this pose?" down a long corridor at the National Gallery. Surfees with Jorrocks and Mr Sponge's Sporting Tour gave Dickens the pattern for Pickwick. Esmond Haddock won a bride and freedom from aunts by his spirited rendering of "Ahuntin' we will go". Dame Juliana Barnes. the suspect author of The Book of St Albans. gave English its rich nouns of assemblage from the venereal or hunting game, such as a

scoop of reporters or a slant of journalists. Blow all the rudeness and snobbery. Pity the plumage, but forget the dying bird. Hunting is batty but primal. And though it now makes a dull ride, it is still a good read.

Accused of muddling through, Lord Irvine insists Labour's most ambitious programme is still on track

nly one major political porty believes that our constitution stands in need of change at all. The Tories government scaled new heights of complacency in defending the status quo. It was as if our constitution had been a iewel so beyond improvement that we had reached the end of history. The Conservatives paid the price of being ejected from office by the electorate after 18 years of increasingly autocratic, ment. They lost the trust of the people and, in the process, undermined public confidence in

our democratic institutions. This Government was elected on a pledge to restore faith in democracy. We have embarked on the most ambitious and extensive programme of constitutional reform and modernisation this century. It is aimed at restoring the British people's trust in government and build-ing a constitution fit for the next century. We will govern with a new spirit of openness. We will enter into a partnership with the people, governing by consent and seeking to fashion consensus in a way that is both honest and

accountable. Power has been concentrated in the hands of too few people at the top. We want to restore more freedom to local communities and bring power closer to the people by devolving power away from the centre to Scotland. Wales, London and, where there is a clear demand, to the English

My pivotal role in the constitutional revolution

regions. We will incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into United Kingdom law to bring these rights home and allow our people access to them in their national Freedom of Information Act to give people the right to know what government is doing in

Open and accountable government and freedom of information are the lifeblood of a modern and secure democracy. A culture of secrecy flourished under the Tories. Instead of the soft option of putting an existing code of practice into statute, we are engaged on a root-and-branch review of every issue. It is right that we should take the time necessary to achieve a proper solution, through a careful synthesis of political input to the process of the Whitehall machne. The Government also believes that a vital and effective House of Commons is central to the revival of public confidence in politics and public life. We are

tion are already before the select committee concerned. After that, the Government will turn to the composition and role of the House of Lords, which we are determined to make more representative. So, this is a wide-ranging and extensive programme. But Peter

Riddell need have no fear that the programme is piecemeal, or that its interconnections are not being thought through. Back in March this year we published a joint report with the Liberal Democrats, setting out a coherent and detailed programme for constitutional reform. Before the general election, the

Labour manifesto gave a com-plete picture of our policies and the thinking which binds them together. As soon as we were in Government, the Prime Minister convened a Cabinet committee with responsibility for constitutional reform policy, for the very reason that we need to consider the whole picture and to ensure that our programme maintains committed to modernising the way Parliament works, and pro-

consideration being given to each strand of the programme. I currently chair three separate committees, on devolution, freedom of information and incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights, working through the detail of our

An important reason for my pivotal role as chairman of all three of these committees is to ensure that we do think through the implications of each of our reforms and get the linkages right. We recognise the importance of ensuring mutual compatibility between the various elements of our programme. Introducing freedom of information, for example, must achieve consistency with the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights. By legislating to ensure that those affected by administrative decisions are always given reasons, we will demonstrate that the convention is a basic floor of human rights, not a ceiling. On devolution, the immediate media focus is on the Scottish and Welsh referendums. But our proposals are designed

committed to offering London a similar opportunity and in time. the English regions. The establishment of statutory Regional Development Agencies, announced in the Queen's Speech. is the first step towards making overnment more accountable in the regions of England.

ur programme is highly ambitious and cannot be achieved all at once. We make no apology for that, and have always said it should proceed step by step. Peter Riddell is right when he says that the Prime Minister does not want to unbalance the legislative programme. We were elected on a manifesto that promised action across every area of government: on education, health, law and order and, of course, the economy. Constitutional renewal must be balanced with these other important commitments.

Parliament will have every opportunity to consider our pro-posals. We cannot be responsible for the Tories' unwillingness to engage in constructive debate

about modernising the British constitution. For the Govern-ment's part, we are making every ment's part, we are making every effort to ensure that the issues are fully debated. Over the next few months we will be publishing White Papers on Scottish and Welsh devolution, freedom of information and incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights. There will also be a Green Paper on proposals

be a Green Paper on proposals for a Greater London authority. There can be no question of a lack of attention to detail or proper consultation. There will be full debate on each step of the constitutional reform programme, both within Parliament and outside, as we are currently witnessing on our devolution

proposals. Rather than stifling debate, this measured and sensible approach allows more time for planning and implementation and increases the opportunities for debate about the constitution

as a whole.

Peter Riddell accuses the Government of muddling through on constitutional reform. But in the same breath, he accepts that "we are moving from being subjects to becoming citizens with defined rights", acknowledging one of the central themes binding Labour's programme together. We are delivering power to the people, balancing rights and responsibilities, and restoring confidence in our constitution.

Lord Irvine of Lairg is Lord Chancellor of Great Britain.

The Governor, treason and plot

Was Chris Patten the victim

of a Foreign Office conspiracy?

ago and swore enough was enough. A chapter of empire had ended in a deluge of rain and overexposure. No more. The story was done.

I must recant. Jonathan Dimbleby's book on Chris Patten. The Last Governor, published today, contains allegations against British ministers and officials as astonishing as anything in recent imperial history. They amount to a charge of treason. The book was written on the basis of five years' close contact with Mr Patten, who is quoted at length, and his team at Government House. It is the argument that the Chinese re-

He is at present Hawaii. seething with anger. I understand that documents showing what he regards as duplicity among

stock and dev-

predecessors were uncovered as recently as during his departure from Government House. He wants a

full parliamentary inquiry. After reading the book, I imagine its cast of villains would agree, if only to clear their names. According to Patten-Dimbleby, a freemasonry of British diplomats and associates decided in the 1980s that the 'Ming vase" of Hong Kong should be handed over to Beijing in 1997 undamaged by democracy, even if this meant dissembling to the people of Hong Kong and suppressing calls for colonial self-government. From the moment that Parliament called for a democratic administration in Hong Kong in 1984, the Foreign Office fought any such proposal. It was obsessed with staying in Beijing's good books.

Dimbleby charts private contacts immediately after Tiananmen Square (in defiance of a world boycott) and secret "winks and nods". After Mr Patten's appointment, Sir Percy Cradock, the former supremo of Britain's Hong Kong policy,

left Hong Kong ten days became a roving "disloyal opposition" to the Governor. He visited Beijing behind the Governor's back and liaised with Communist officials in Hong Kong. Most galling for Mr Patten was the knowledge that those denouncing him in London as misguided and incompetent were eagerly seeking business from the notoriously corrupt

Beijing regime.
These charges, quoted by Dimbleby from a senior public servant against his colleagues. are serious. I first joined the Hong Kong debate on Sir Percy's side. I could see the force of his argument for Mr Patten, lock. gime was, as he once put it, a

> Hong turn Kong into a wasteland if not handled properly. Democracy was a distraction. Hong Kong diplomacy post-1984 had to be

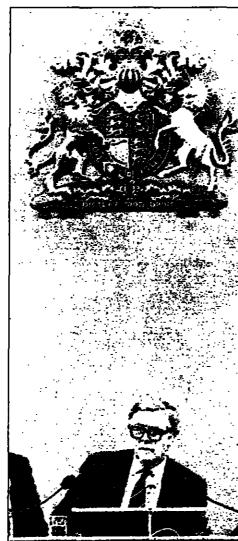
bunch of thugs'

that of surrender disguised as dignified retreat. To Sir Percy there was no alternative.

The British Government wanted an alternative and sent Mr Patten out to pursue it. He sought a more democratic regime prior to the handover, gambling that China would not ordain the wasteland strategy. We could have left any colony in the world Cradock-fashion, entrusting it to the most potent neighbour in the nicest possible terms. The frontline states could have been given to South Africa. The Falklands could have gone to Argentina. Yet in each case. Britain felt an obligation to ideological as well as civil order,

whatever later befell. The difference in Hong Kong was that the colony was rich and that wealth required Chinese acquiescence. When the time came for handover talks in 1984. an onset of British liberal conscience threatened that acquies-cence. The Hong Kong establishment was horrified. Foreign Office Sinologists in the

1980s, like their Arabist brothers.





1974: Howe announces the deal with China. 1997: Patten bites his lip as the handover begins

showed their machismo by their attachment to the deeper philosophies of their adopted land. To them Hong Kong was not a colony thirsty for autonomy but a Chinese merchant city under brief British trusteeship. Ruling Hong Kong was none of Britain's business, or rather it was business and nothing else. Levering China was unthinkable. When Mr Patten sought "any democratic elbow room I could find", the Sinologists were appalled.

Mr Patten emerges from this book not as the ambitious popinjay of Foreign Office lore. He was naive and inexperienced, but he was also dumbfounded at the defeatism towards China of

those who claimed to have Hong Kong's interests at heart. Worse, many of his new enemies were old friends. Against him were Lord Howe of Aberavon and Lord Young of Graffham (both for Cable and Wireless), Lord Prior (for GEC). Michael Heseltine (for the DTI) and the massed diplomatic establishment. There were ambassadors and former governors, MPs and bankers. Did none of them believe in democracy and selfgovernment? Would they not join Mr Patten in a crusade to which they and the West had been committed for half a century, to install democratic rights wherev-

Apparently not. Mr Patten's only allies throughout were Douglas Hurd and John Major himself. Lord Hurd of Westwell could not understand his prede-cessor. Lord Howe, wanting deals with Beijing to be kept secret from Hong Kong's local leaders. Lord Prior, Lord Young and Sir Charles Powell could beat a path to the Governor's door, pleading for him to soften his proposals in the interests of their companies. Lord Young even assured the Governor that the "vast majority" of Hong Kong people were "entirely unpolitical" (a million had demon-

strated against Tiananmen). Otherwise liberal men had their

Chinese gold, as had the 19thcentury opium cartels. Britain could not be fastidious in the face of the great god trade.

Mr Patten was to learn the might of this god. On the Court of Appeal, on the new airport, on visas, on extending the franchise. he was without friends the moment he crossed China. He finds that the Foreign Office has already surrendered points he thought he was still negotiating. Diplomats soothe Beijing's anguish when a Hong Kong opin-ion poll supports democracy. When the Governor tries to stop a Cradock mission to China, briefed by the Foreign Office against him, he is ignored. This book portrays a lonely defender of an outpost long ceded to the enemy, with friendly fire falling all around him.

Yet Mr Patten had his way. Certainly his half-democratic replaced by one to Beijing's liking. But that does not mean the democratic route should never have been tried. Not even the smoothest Sinologist could have suppressed Martin Lee and his allies in the Democracy Movement for five more years after 1992. Mr Patten co-opted them. As a result, Hong Kong passed to China as a more mature and

cautious political community.

There has been none of Sir Percy's predicted chaos. The business community accused Mr Patten of ruining them. He overruled them, yet they have not been ruined. To put it mildly, some of them might stop on the way to the bank to offer him an apology. If the rich are richer than ever, it is thanks to his policy, against theirs. Hong Kong may not be a democracy, but it has had a taste of one.

That is the argument of this remarkable book. Mr Patten's accusation, via Dimbleby, is that his foes deceived Parliament, conspired to cheat six million people of their rights and used political influence for commercial gain. Worse, when British territory was at risk after Tiananmen Square, they were conspiring with the enemy. Perhaps, as the cynic says, treason is a matter of dates. But let us hear the dates. If the dignity with which Britain left Hong Kong last week is to survive, these charges should be answered.

Have faith

MUEZZINS cries and Buddhist chants will be ringing through the House of Commons if Donald Gorrie, the Liberal Democrat MP for Edinburgh West, succeeds in his plan to make the opening prayers said every day in the Commons multi-denominational.

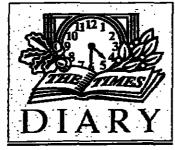


this week to get things moving, and claims the support of most of his party and many across the House. The current form is for the Speaker's Anglican chaplain. Canon Donald Gray, to read a set number of prayers from the Book of Common Prayer for five minutes

each day before the beginning of House business. The format has

hardly changed since the Until now. "The Common Prayer Book prayers don't do much for me," says Gorrie, an older in the Church of Scotland, "The words are the same every day. If we had a rota of ministers of all religions, we could have brand new prayers every day read out in different languages. It would be rather stimulating to start the day with Arabic or Hebrew." Canon Gray would maintain his pastoral duties but would have to wait his turn

beside the Rabbis and Plymouth Brethren in the prayer rota. Despite the modish feel to the idea, for some it smacks of the paralysingly correct Thought for



programme. "The Church of England prayers are disaff." the Day slot on Radio 4's Todav beautiful, says Lord St John of Fawsley, a former Leader of the House. "I can't imagine they'll get away with this." Canon Gray sounded too gloomy to comment.

Top hole

THRILLING news for foreign fans of P.G. Wodehouse: Norman Murphy. Wodehouse scholar, is preparing a concordance to the master's works. "I got the idea while giving a lecture in Texas," says Murphy. who, with his tommy-gun delivery and floppy dark hair, looks like a useful nabber of policemen's helwhat was a collar-stud and what

Beyond the sartorial, Murphy hopes to parse the various popular savings, advertising jingles and songs which Wodehouse would drop in to his works. "Wodehouse used the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer a great deal," says Murphy, "but two lines in a popular song from New York in 1900 can be a devil to find." Perhaps most excitingly. Murphy promises to reveal the identity of the inspiration for Lord Emsworth. "It's elud-ed me for 30 years," he says. "You must wait for the book to find out."

 William Hague's campaign to bring the average age of Tory Members down from 62 to below his own age has received a boost from Hague's own fiercely ambi-tious PPS. David Lidington, the MP for Ayleshury. On Tuesday his wife gave birth to twins, Edward and James, who are already on the list of prospective future members of Lidington's local party.

Red hot

CONGRATULATIONS to Jeanette Winterson, the novelist and critic, play. It is an adaptation of her own novel from 1987, The Passion.

er in the world they could?

The buyer is Miramax, the brash Amercian film company behind the blood-strewn works of Quentin Tarantino. Fortunately it has experience of more highbrow stuff, having also poured money into The English Patient.

 Doug Henderson, the Minister for Europe, is paying a price for his attention to his physical wellbeing. Each morning he goes jog-



fice overlooking the Durbar Court, he has terrible trouble getting into the building. His problem? He has nowhere to keep his security pass in his running kit.

ging through St James's Park.

fice, however, where he has an of-

When he returns to the Foreign Of-

Tum trouble TOO much globetrotting and

summitry, not to mention trying to keep up with President Clinton, has had its effect on the waistlines of the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary. Guests at Robin Cook's party in the Foreign Office on Thursday evening confirmed that he was looking "porky". The PM, meanwhile, once an en-

thusiastic exerciser, is now reduced to a few sets of tennis on Saturday mornings at RAF Halton near Chequers. He is thickening conspicuously around the waist as a result.

The impression is made worse by a new light-grey, Neil Hamil-ton-style suit he has bought," says one observer. "His trousers have begun to swoop under his tummy," a common effect depicted in my diagram),

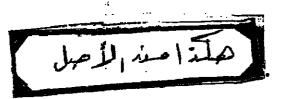
Downing Street, however, is keen to assert the PM's vigour. "I

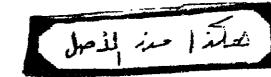


The state of the s

Blair: corporation taxed

think that anyone who can travel 26,000 miles and go to four summits in the first few weeks of office cannot have a fitness problem." says one of Blair's spokesmen. How about releasing regular details of Blair's weight and cholesterol levels, as the White-House does for Clinton? The Downing Street telephone went dead.





Such a commission would, in times

gone by, have been the summit of the

career of a Ghiberti or a Donatello.

Without wishing to detract from the professional and conscientious work

of the contractors, is an artist not re-

The present divorce between artists

and craftsmen is much to be regretted,

but to erect sculpture without the

vitality that only an artist can bring is

to risk the deadness eloquently de-plored by William Morris in the case

of the north portal of the Abbey more

The proposed figures should be ca-

pable of standing comparison with those on the west front of Wells or

Exeter, or even Chartres. That there

are sculptors today capable of such a task, as Epstein or Frink might have

been, is not impossible. Until they are

found, the niches had arguably best

than a century ago.



AN OMINOUS DELAY

Are ministers already losing their taste for openness?

There was a pretty irony in yesterday's programme for Parliament. As MPs debated "the information society", with a minister making worthy noises about the Simportant social as well as economic dimensions to the information revolution", the Government admitted that its White Paper on Freedom of Information was not now to be published this month, but would have to be delayed until the autumn.

Ministers indignantly denied reports that civil servants had been holding them up. If officials have indeed been speedy on this issue, that would in itself be a surprise. Whitehall is famous for its culture of secrecy. In this department more than any other, "Yes, minister" is liable to mutate into "Not yet, minister" and, eventually, "Are you really sure, minister?". A long enough delay, they might hope, could help to dent the enthusiasm that politicians felt about freedom of information in Opposition.

But no, we are told, it is the ministers' own fault that the White Paper is not ready to be published. The timetable that they imposed on themselves was too tight. They have not been able to devote enough time to scrutinising the draft that officials have prepared, based on a speech that Tony Blair gave in Opposition. Other issues, they say, have been given higher priority.

This could be an ominous sign. First, we were led to expect a Freedom of Information Bill in the first parliamentary session. Then it was bumped off the list, with the promise of an early White Paper, followed by a draft Bill. Now the early White Paper has turned into a late White Paper. Conspiracy theorists might legitimately suspect that ministers. have already been captured by their office.

For this would not be the first time that the best of intentions have paved the road to inaction. In 1974, the last time that an incoming Labour Government had the chance to enact a manifesto pledge to bring in freedom of information, the idea was quietly dropped. At each election since then, the same promise has been made. Now at last it can be enacted. But will it?

The case is stronger now than ever before. The last Government, tainted by the machinations uncovered by the Scott inquiry, made an attempt to open up Whitehall. But the code was weak, and public faith in the workings of government remained low. This Government is passionate about modernisation: what better candidate than the one institution left almost untouched by the Thatcherite and Majorite reforms of the 1980s and 1990s?

Labour's claim that there has been too little time to consider this matter rings hollow. The party has had 18 years of Opposition, 23 years since it first undertook to take action. In the meantime, there have been Private Member's Bills, hours of parliamentary debate and endless seminars on the subject. Mr Blair himself is sensitive to the dangers of temptation to dilute once in power. At a Campaign for Freedom of Information awards ceremony last year, he said: "People often say to me today, "Everyone says this before they get into power, then after they get into power...' I actually believe that if we want to make government effective in the modern world, it simply is not possible to do that on the basis of Government just handing down tablets of stone."

All the more reason, then, for his administration to make this a high priority. Many Bills conceived in haste are repented at leisure. But freedom of information is one of the few issues best tackled quickly, before ministers start to enjoy the power that secrecy affords them. If it is not a high priority now, it ought to be.

THE MANDELA EFFECT

South Africa remains on the road to reconciliation

One year after his triumphant state trip, Nelson Mandela has been a welcome visitor to Britain again this week. For part of his three-day tour he has played the role of consort to Graca Machel who received an honorary degree from Essex University on Thursday. Yesterday Mr Mandela spoke in his own right at Oxford. The South Africa to which he returns has made steady progress since he appeared with Betty Boothroyd at the Palace of Westminster and walked with the Prince of Wales in Brixton market.

Much of the credit for this lies with the President himself — the symbol of his country both at home and abroad. He is now within a week of his 79th birthday and two years from political retirement. He has gradually transfered his duties to Thebo Mbeki, his Deputy President and probable successor. In an African context, the willingness of a leader both to serve only a limited period of office and to share authority while doing so is unique. The means by which Mr Mandela relinquishes power may prove as important to South African democracy as the manner in which he left prison.

The Mandela presidency has been devoted to the theme of reconciliation: not only. between races but within them. The most pressing issue facing South Africa after the move to majority rule in 1994 was the violent division between supporters of the ANC and Chief Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP). Their rivalry had left more than 12,000 dead in KwaZulu/Natal, and rendered that province, South Africa's largest, all but ungovernable. Until recently the ANC regarded the IFP as an entirely illegitimate force, simply created for the convenience of apartheid. The tentative agreement between the two camps represents an astonishing transformation in their relationship.

Tensions between black and white South Africans, although visible, have also eased. The task of raising the living standards of the poor majority while reassuring the remaining wealthier minority was destined to involve difficulties. In certain areas, notably education, where the colour division in the quality of facilities enjoyed is especially stark, maintaining a national consensus has proved arduous. Nonetheless, the "white flight" that at one stage threatened to become a stampede has abated.

In large degree this is because the business community has stayed. That in turn reflects increased confidence in the country's future. The ANC was elected on a hopelessly impractical economic platform that it has progressively abandoned. Outside investors have been reassured by the programme that emerged in its place. The last South African budget included cuts in spending, taxation and borrowing. Exchange controls were relaxed further. The telecommunications industry became the first partial privatisation this spring. A Finance Minister once associated with Marxism produced the sort of package many in the City of London urged on Gordon Brown.

Law and order - easily the most pressing domestic problem - remains a major impediment to South Africa's prospects. Criminal violence has risen at the same time as political violence has fallen. That reflects the easy availability of offensive weaponry. The fear this engenders also has a destructive effect on trade and tourism. Reversing that trend is the most significant task of Mr Mandela's remaining tenure. Despite that, three years on, the ambition of a "rainbow nation" retains real substance as well as a compelling image. That is certainly what Mr Mandela would want as his legacy.

THE FRAGRANT ANGLER

Taut lines, midge cream and pheromones for the best fishers

Izaak Walton, the patron saint of fishing, declared that he was a brother of the angle. But today, as compulsively as trout to mayfly, the question rises whether there can also be sisters of the angle. For Des Taylor is writing about women and fishing again in Angling Times. And for "the voice of angling" women are as welcome as cormorants on the riverbank or mink in the salmon river. According to him, women chatter about things other than fish and fishing. They let their children run riot, they embarrass male anglers while they are at their swearing, exaggeration and other macho activities, and their very sex distracts fishermen from their proper function.

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Spend on the

While Mr Taylor was giving his new gloss on coarse fishing, Johnny Briggs was taking a swing at women golfers. Mr Briggs is the actor who plays Mike Baldwin in Coronation Street, a character famous for his ancouth opinions. So to slice soap opera into the real rough, he described women golfers as treacherous and an abomination on the course, and compared them to cockroaches. Now Mr Briggs's former wife says: "He fainks women should be in the kitchen cooking his dinner and then get ready in bed

wearing a long nightie." These majestically politically incorrect views do not represent the considered Opinion of the four million people in Britain The admit to fishing regularly or the rather the image of fishing as a jerk on one end of a time waiting for another jerk at the other. . sex.

and of golf as an insult to lawns. They are factually wrong. In Finland yesterday in the European ladies team championship, Scotland took a vice-like grip on their match against England. Half a world away in Sapporo, Japan, other choice and mistress lady golfers were competing for 50 million yen. Oueen Elizabeth the Queen Mother is the

most celebrated fisherwoman. And the record for the king of game fish, the salmon, is still held by Miss G. W. Ballantine for the 64-pounder she landed from the Tay in 1922. Fishwives have a reputation for fishermanly invective. And Shakespeare made Cleopatra call for her angle to go fishing. But then he also had her playing billiards 15 centuries before that clubman's ballgame was invented. And the traditional virtues required for both fishing and golf - patience, calm, precision, neatness, unflappability - are not

exclusively masculine. It is no more persuasive to ban women from fishing than to say that sitting on a damp bank or hacking in an inescapable bunker necessarily make a man a curmudgeon. Many male fishers and golfers show almost feminine grace in adversity. And in the fertile folklore of fishing, some say that fish are attracted by female pheromones. It is possible that this week's outbursts are the first recorded examples of pheromone rage. In any case, there are still plenty of lonely banks and roughs for the solitary fisher king to escape to from his troubles, and from the company of either

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

guilt of Serbs

From Sir Alfred Sherman

Sir, While congratulating you and your fellows in the British media on giving fair showing to both sides in the controversy over the hunting of foxes, I regret that not the slightest trace of this fairness has been shown (reports, July 1i) towards the hunting of Serb patriots by Nato occupation forces in Bosnia and the Marches (Krajina).

For centuries now the Orthodox Christian Serbs have been subjected to genocide, enforced conversion (to Islam or Western Christianity) and ethnic cleansing by the most reactionary forces — Islam, the Western Church and German imperialism, now reinforced by the hegemonism of the United States.

No one is allowed a word on their defence. A new weasel phrase, "indicted war-criminal", has been invented to circumvent that age-old dictum of innocence until guilt is proven. Now, as with socialist show-trials, indictment is taken as automatically equivalent to guilt. Think of the further potential ramifications.

Yours faithfully, ALFRED SHERMAN, 14 Malvern Court, Onslow Square, SW7.

From Mr Adam Hibbert

Sir, Whether or not one supports the UN's rather selective crusade against "war criminals" (leading article, July 11), it would seem prudent to remember that the norms of justice require a due process of evidence and judgment before the summary execution of untried suspects; that even with The Hague inquisition's blinkers it has been impossible to avoid the recognition that all sides in the war were driven to extremes; and that even if we were underestimating the scale of atrocity in Bosnia, there can be no justification for drawing parallels with the Holocaust, a comparison that reduces the lessons of the latter to a trite caution against tribal bickering.

ADAM HIBBERT, 21 Hillfield Avenue, N8. July II.

Island economy

From Mr Jonathan Tolson Sir, Mr Robert Young (letter, July 7;

see also letter. July 11) asks why the

economic miracle, if it is that, of Hong Kong has not been repeated here. At least part of the answer may lie in the very different situation to be seen in the British dependency of St Helena. Hong Kong happened because of its adjacency to the mainland of China and the burgeoning economies of the Pacific Rim. Britain was probably as good a colonial ruler as any other would have been, but it was the emigres from China who came to the fore in the last three decades who made it happen.

So how goes St Helena? Very poorly, it would appear, as there seems to be a distinct lack of interest in its prospects now it has served its purpose as a maritime staging-post and it has no adjacency or natural resource to

If the British want to show the international audience what can and should be done to improve an island economy then surely St Helena should have a Governor who will roll up his, or her, sleeves to work for the St Helenians as a chief executive, to argue their corner and lead the island to a viable and democratic future. Assuming Mr Patten doesn't want another turn, might there be someone who became available on May 1 to

Yours faithfully, JONATHAN TOLSON. Withiel Florey, Minehead. Somerset.

Hong Kong diplomacy From Sir Alexander Waddell

Sir. I was astonished to read Mr. Andrew Stuart's description of those who preceded Lord Maclehose as Governor of Hong Kong as a "succession of particularly dim colonials" (letter, July 7).

It so happens that, as a member of HM Colonial Service, I had the privilege of serving at various times in the Pacific and Far East with those so maligned. Sir Alexander Grantham was Governor of Hong Kong 1947-1957, Sir Robert Black 1958-64 and Sir David Trench 1964-71, which must be the "succession" to which Mr Stuart re-

fers so disparagingly.

All were men of the highest ability and outstanding administrators with wide experience in other territories as well as in Hong Kong. Each in turn presided over the tremendous economic and social advances in Hong Kong following the devastation of the Second World War, leading to the economic "superstate" of recent years.

It is regrettable, and to me distasteful, that Mr Stuart, a diplomat, should have seen fit to describe these officers, distinguished in the service they gave in war as in peace, in such terms, and in effect to disparage the administrations of which they were the head.

Yours faithfully, A. N. A. WADDELL Pilgrim Cottage, Ashton Keynes, Wiltshire.

'Unfair' to assume Abbey restoration: is it craft or art?

From Mr James Dunnett

Sir. Restoration work at Westminster Abbey over the past few years has been carried out to a high level of craftsmanship. But with the commission of carved statuary for the principal portals, the question arises of when craft should give way to art.

The 14 niches around the west entrance of the Abbey - the principal entrance on state ceremonial occa-sions and for the public on a daily basis - have been empty at least since 1654, and there is no evidence that they were ever filled.

They were recut by Hawksmoor in the early 18th century, but remained empty until the four flanking the entrance were filled by statues of the Virtues three years ago. Preparatory models have now been

made to fill the remaining ten niches with lifesize figures of 20th-century martyrs, including Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Archbishop Romero of San Salvador. This work is in the hands of the firm of conservation contractors in Cambridge who were responsible for the Virtues.

expressing their desire for their way of

Your leading article, "Rural march-

ers", this morning was correct in stating that hyperbole has no place in

the arguments in favour of continuing

hunting. But surely we must draw a

line between, on the one hand, ex-

pressing disapproval, displeasure or

even disgust at an activity indulged in

and enjoyed by many others and, on

the other hand, making criminals of a

substantial proportion of our pop-

Do our urban neighbours really

want that? Is it right that those of us

who live in the countryside and parti-

cipate in country sports, and, in some

cases, have families who have done so

for generations, should be told that

these activities are criminal? I have

friends and neighbours whose whole

lives might, if Mr Michael Foster's

Bill is enacted, be deemed to have

revolved around a criminal activity.

This is not an argument either for.

or against, hunting. It is a strong

argument against replacing the power

of discussion and persuasion by the

If our urban compatriots, and in-

deed some of our rural ones, feel so

strongly then by all means come and

argue the case. Open debate, friendly

and peaceful persuasion are valid tac-

tics and, who knows, the result may

How divisive can we become?

heavy hand of the law.

not be so easily foreseen.

life to be understood and tolerated.

Countryside rally

From Dr Clive Layton

100,000 other people.

There is no role for Parliament, the

law or violent argument in this arena. Yours etc. CLIVE LAYTON.

remain empty.

Yours sincerely,

JAMES DUNNETT,

James Dunnett Architects.

142 Barnsbury Road, N1.

Sir, Today I attended the Countryside Woodview. rally in Hyde Park. There I met Abbess Roding, Ongar, Essex. layton@softlay-software.demon.co.uk No one was hurt, no property was vandalised: these gentle people were

From Mr Ivan Massow

Sir, This week has witnessed impressive demonstrations by two honourable causes. I don't suppose many people will have attended both the Gay Pride and the Countryside marches, but both events assert the same important principle: this is a free country.

Many people find homosexuality distasteful; probably the majority of the population do not want to have much to do with it. The same is true of country sports. But neither gay sex nor fox-hunting does harm to other people. Those who want to engage in either should be free to do so.

Yours faithfully, IVAN MASSOW, 7 Meard Street, W1.

From Mr Mark Bourgeois

Sir. I've just returned from Hyde Park. A lovely place to stroll on one's lunch break. There are tens of thousands of people gathered. I couldn't help but be surprised at the lack of ground litter that one normally expects at such events. Who are these people who obviously have so much respect and caring for the outdoors?

Yours faithfully, MARK BOURGEOIS. 9 Tremadoc Road, SW4. July 10.

The service also supervises many **Probation supervision** drug users. People in these categories

From the Assistant Chief Probation Officer of Essex Probation Service

Sir, The Home Office report on the number of convicted criminals being charged with murder or serious offences while under the supervision of probation officers (details, July 2), places the Probation Service in a very difficult position. Publicising its work with dangerous offenders runs the risk of unjustifiably raising the fear of crime in an already alarmed public. On the other hand, the Probation Service should not be defensive.

The harsh truth is that virtually all high-risk offenders, who are already known to the courts, police, prisons and psychiatric services, come to the Probation Service at some stage. They are released on licence from the prisons, for example, whether they get parole or not. Those whom the Parole Board consider too risky or dangerous to give parole will be released eventually and passed straight to the Probation Service.

Offenders who are severely mentally disordered are still put on probation inappropriately by the courts.

can be volatile and unpredictable. The vast majority of offenders are

supervised successfully and safely, and the community is not exposed to danger. Through prompt action, probation officers avoid an enormous number of serious incidents, by spotting danger signs and recalling prisoners on parole, without publicity. They work unprotected, using their training and skills to keep offenders from committing more crime.

The 204 serious incidents in the 13 months to December 1996 reported by the Probation Service to the Home Office represent one tenth of one per cent of the 200,000 cases under our supervision during that time. The service can never be complacent, however: when mistakes are made and shortfalls occur, we will account for them and take appropriate action.

Yours sincerely, JOHN BUDĎ, Assistant Chief Probation Officer. Essex Probation Service. Cullen Mill, 49 Braintree Road, Witham, Essex.

As old as you feel

From Mr J. W. Scott

Sir. By describing Camilla Parker Bowles, aged 49, as being "in late middle-age", Jane Shilling (article, July 8) may be betraying the number of her own years, since middle-age is. throughout life, always about ten years older than you are yourself. I am slightly older than Mrs Parker Bowles and, from my own viewpoint, she has yet to reach even early middle-

However, if middle-age is also defined as the time when you have either achieved your every ambition or come to terms with the fact that you will not do so, then I think that Jane Shilling herself, judging by the tone of her article, would agree that the phrase was inappropriate.

Yours faithfully. JONATHAN SCOTT, Merton Grange, Wheelers Lane, Bearwood, Bournemouth, Dorset.

Weekend Money letters, page 41

Letters may be faxed to 0171-782-5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Opera House plans

From Mr John Crompton Sir, I am rather puzzled by one of the

the chairman of Covent Garden (report, July 7). Lord Chadlington puts forward the idea of a shop selling a large range of items associated with the Opera

fundraising initiatives suggested by

House. He seems to have overlooked the fact that the House used to have a large shop in James Street selling precisely this sort of merchandise. It opened in the late 1980s as part of the development at the rear of the theatre, and was closed some years ago as a cost-saving measure.

Yours faithfully, JOHN CROMPTON, 14 Donovan Avenue, NIO.

From Mr Gavin Roebuck Sir. Lord Chadlington expresses his

determination to create the "people's opera". Well what about the ballet? Under his chairmanship is it going to remain the junior partner in the new Covent Garden?

Yours faithfully. GAVIN ROEBUCK, 51 Earls Court Square, SW5.

A real devotion to virtual pets

From Mrs Nicola Kenny

Sir, I, too, have fallen into the trap of thinking the Tamagotchi "cyber pet" was the answer to all my problems (letter, July 7; see also letters, July 8). Not having the time to devote to cats. dogs, rabbits, etc. I actively encouraged my two children to have cyber

I now find myself taking both pets to work (they are forbidden at school) where, in between answering tele-phones, typing, etc, I have to feed, dis-cipline, play and look after them.

The beeping has caused chaos in the office, with people running around looking for mobile phones. The worry about "killing" one while the children are at school has put years on my life.

Yours faithfully, N. KENNY, 16 Pyotts Copse. Old Basing, Basingstoke, Hampshire.

From Mrs L. C. J. Aldwinckle

Sir, Some children at the junior school where I am a secretary secretly bring their electronic pets to school. If discovered, a Tamagotchi is confiscated and sent to the office for safe keeping

until going-home time.

Should I look after them or not? School rules forbid both animals and electronic games but it is hard to shut the desk drawer on a virtual menagerie, electronically indicating the

imminence of its virtual expiry. I am proud to say that none has

Yours faithfully, LUCY ALDWINCKLE, 107 Woodwarde Road, SE22.

From Mr Philip A. R. James

Sir, At my daughter's school there is a thriving Tamagotchi babysitting service whereby the "nannies" pay the "parents" to look after them. So far the fee has not reached the

original provider. Yours faithfully, PHILIP A. R. JAMES,

Snoadhill Cottage, Bethersden, Kent. From Mr Andrew H. Hooper

Sir. Our daughter simply cleans, feeds and plays with her Tamagotchi. She then resets the time and puts it back to sleep for another 12 hours.

Yours faithfully, ANDREW H. HOOPER, Grove House, 6 Castle Grove, The Park, Nottingham.

From the Reverend Anthony Luckcuck Sir, I've not found myself holding the electronic baby: they are forbidden in

our home. But in the 11-year-olds' conversation on a recent school trip. I discovered an unexpected twist, which may be even more sinister than tending the Tamagotchi. It ran: "I've killed mine four limes already, how often have you killed yours?"

Yours sincerely. ANTHONY LUCKCUCK. St. John's Vicarage, 261 Oakdale Road, Carlton, Nottingham. amleclerc@btinternet.com

From Mr Nicholas J. Huband

Sir, I was informed by a friend this weekend that there exists on the internet a memorial Website for deceased Tamagotchi:

I am forced to recognise a certain insane logic in a virtual memorial for a virtual pet.

Yours faithfully. NICK HUBAND. 63 Thames Drive, Leigh on Sea, Essex.

Fruits of experience

From Mr Mark Ashford

Sir, I first encountered the phrase going pear shaped" (letters, July 7 and 10) during flying training with the Royal Navy in the early 1980s and had therefore assumed it to be connected with military flying. Describing the result of an incorrectly executed manoeuvre such as a turn or a loop. perhaps?

Yours faithfully, MARK ASHFORD, 79 Oliver Street. Ampthill, Bedfordshire.

Fast food

From Mr Adrian Brodkin

Yours faithfully,

ADRIAN BRODKIN.

Sir, One of your advertisers today ("Great Sporting Offers") has an intriguing offer. A mere £595 plus VAT secures "Private Suite Hospitality on starting grid [their italics] including Complimentary Bar, Superb 4 course buffet lunch for this Sunday's British Grand Prix at Silver-

Although dining on pole position is undoubtedly an exciting prospect, lingering over lunch (with the race due to start at 2pm) might not be altogether advisable on this occasion.

93 Kingsley Way, N2.

Sport letters, page 50



COURT CIRCULAR

PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE July II: The Queen held an Investiture at the Palace of Holyroodhouse this morning. The Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden KT, Lord High Commis-sioner to the General Assembly of ceived by Her Majesty and reported on the recent proceedings of

the General Assembly.
The Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden KT, with the Lady Macfarlane of Bearsden, remained to Luncheon with The Queen.

Mrs Mary Blake, Mrs Eileen
Harrild and Mr Rodney Mayor.
on behalf of his late wife Mrs Gwen Mayor, were received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested them with The Oueen's Commendation for Bravery.

The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited the Haig Homes Estate. Saughton Mains Street. Stenhouse, Edinburgh, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh (Mr Eric Milligan, the Rt

Hon the Lord Provost). Mr Hugo Brunner (Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire) was present at Royal Air Force Brize Norton this evening upon the Departure of The President of the Republic of South Africa, who was accompanied by farewell on behalf of The Oueen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE July 11: The Duke of York this evening attended a Centenary Dinner given by the Marine Highland Hotel, Troon, Ayrshire. **BUCKINGHAM PALACE** July II: The Princess Royal this morning opened Shin-Etsu Europe Limited's new plant at

Wilson Road, Toll Roundabout. Eliburn, Livingston, and was re-ceived by Her Masjesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Lothian (the Earl of Morton). Her Royal Highness later visited

Street, Edinburgh, and was re-ceived by Mr Brian Fallon (Deputy Lieutenant of the City of The Princess Royal, Patron, the

Scottish Business Achievement Award Trust, this afternoon at-tended the Annual Luncheon at Prestonfield House Hotel. Priestfield Road, Edinburgh, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of

Edinburgh (Mr Eric Milligan, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost). Her Royal Highness, Patron, Citizens Advice Scorland, later visited Gorgie/Dalry Citizens Advice Bureau, Fountainbridge Li-brary, Dundee Street, Edinburgh.

ST JAMES' S PALACE
July 11: The Prince of Wales this morning held an Organic Marketmorning neid an Organic Marker-ing Seminar and gave a Luncheon. His Royal Highness, Patron, this evening attended a Dinner given by the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies at Wadham Coll-ege, Oxford. in honour of The President of the Republic of South

KENSINGTON PALACE July II: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, the Royal Ballet, this evening attended the Company's final performance at the Royal Opera

KENSINGTON PALACE July 11: The Duke of Glouceste this morning opened the Garden Suburb Open Air Theatre, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London

The Duchess of Gloucester to-day opened the Mobility Road-show, Crowthorne, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the Royal County of Dashbeit (M. Pilie Weight 20) Berkshire (Mr Philip Wroughton). Later Her Royal Highness. Patron. National Missing Persons Helpline, attended a Reception to mark the first National Conference on Craniolacial Identification at Cumberland Lodge. Windsor Great Park.

YORK HOUSE July II: The Duke of Kent, President-in-Chief, the British Racing Drivers' Club, this morning at-tended free practice of the British Grand Prix at Silverstone Circuit. Northamptonshire.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE RICHMOND PARK July II: Princess Alexandra this morning opened the new Science Department and Music Centre of Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Faversham, and was re ceived by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Kent (the Lord Kingsdown KG).

Her Royal Highness this after-noon visited the Kent County Show at the County Showground. Deding, Kent.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Mr A.G. Bamford, for-mer Principal, Homerton College. Cambridge, 67; Mr John Bullock, former joint senior partner, Coo-pers & Lybrand, 64; Mr Peter D. Carr. former chairman. Occupa-tional Pensions Board. 67; Lord tional Pensions Board, 67: Lord Cuckney, 72: Dr Jean Curtis-Raleigh, psychiatrist, 64; Mr Gareth Edwards, former rugby player, 50; Darne Mary Glen Haig, honorary life president. British Sports Association for the Disabled, 79; Sir Arthur Hetherington, former chairman, British Gas Corporation, 85: the Rev Philip Holdsworth, former Master, St Benet's Hall, Oxford, 76; Mr M.G. Matthews, former director, Royal Matthews, former director, Royal College of Music, 66; Lord Quirk. FBA, 77: Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale, 61; Miss Jennifer Saunders, comedienne, 39: Sir Harold Walker, former MP, 70.

TOMORROW: Sir David Blather TOMORROW: Sir David Blather-wick, diplomat, 5c; Mr Thierry Boutsen, former racing driver, 40; Professor D.S. Brewer, former Master. Emmanuel College, Cam-bridge, 74; Mr Lee Copperwheat, fashion designer. 31; Sir James Craig, diplomat. 73; Mr Colin Cullimore, former chairman, Navy. Army and Air Force In-stitutes, 66; the Earl of Devon. 81: stitutes, 66; the Earl of Devon. 81; Mr Moss Evans, trade unionist,





Sir Alastair Burnet, broadcaster, is 69 today: Mr Ian Hislop, Editor. Private Eye, will be 37 tomorrow

72: Mr Harrison Ford, actor, 55: Mgr Alfred Gilbey, 96; Mr Larry Gomes, cricketer, 44; the Earl of Gosford, 55; Vice-Admiral the Hon Sir Nicholas Hill-Norton, 58; Mr Chris Holmes, director. Shelter, 55; Mr Peter Job, chief executive, Reuters Holdings, 56; Sir Philip Jones, chairman, Total Oil Marine. 6c; Lord Kenyon, 50; Mr Peter Kindersley, chairman, Dorling Kindersley, 56; Judge Kenneth Machin, QC, 61; Vice-Admiral Sir Gerard Mansfield, 76; Professor Sir Ghillean Prance, FRS, director,

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, 60; Brigadier Dame Jean Rivett-Drake, former director, WRAC, 88; Dr Patricia Rodgers, diplomat, 49; Mr Patrick Stewart, actor, 57; Mr Mr Patrick Stewart, actor, 5/; Mr David Storey, dramatist, 64; the Rev Professor A.C. Thiselton, theologian, 60; Professor Jeff Thompson, educationist, 59; Sir Garfield Todd, former Prime Min-ister of Southern Rhodesia, 89; Professor Sir Bernard Tomlineon Professor Sir Bernard Tomlinson, pathologist, 77; Viscount Torring-ton, 54; Mme Simone Veil, former MEP, 70.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Julius Caesar, Roman statesman, Rome, 100 BC; Josiah Wedgwood. potter, Burslem, Staffordshire, 1730; Sir William Osler, physician, Bondhead, Ontario, 1849; George Eastman, pio-

neer of photography, New York, 1854: F.E. Smith, 1st Earl of Birkenhead Lord Chancellor 1919-22. Birkenhead, 1872: Amadeo Modigliani, painter. Leghorn, 1884: Kirsten Flagstad, soprano, Haman, Norway, 1895; Oscar Hammerstein II, songwriter, New York, 1895: Pablo Neruda, poet and diplomat. Nobel laureate 1971, Parral, Chile, 1904.

DEATHS: Jack Cade, rebel leader Heathfield, Sussex, 1450; Desiderius Erasmus, scholar, Basle, 1536; Jean Picard, astrono-mer, Paris, 1682; Richard Cromwell. Lord Protector 1658-59. Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, 1712;

Edinburgh, 1850; Gertrude Bell, traveller, Baghdad, 1926; Mazo De La Roche, novelist, Canada, 1961. King Henry VIII married Catherine Parr, his sixth, and last, wife, 1543. Turkey ceded Cyprus to Britain,

The Panama Canal was opened, TOMORROW BIRTHS: Wenceslaus Hollar, en-

graver, Prague, 1607: John Clare, farm labourer and poet, Helpston, Northamptonshire, 1793; Patrice MacMahon, President of France 1873-79, Auton, 1808; Sir George Gilbert Scott, architect, Gawcott, Buckinghamshire, 1811; Sidney Webb, Baron Passfield, co-founder of the London School of Economics, London, 1859; Kenneth Clark, Baron Clark, art historian. London, 1903. DEATHS: Titus Oates, Protestant

plotter, London, 1706; James Bradley, astronomer, Chalford, Gloucestershire, 1762; Jean Paul Marat, revolutionary, murdered by Charlotte Corday, Paris, 1793; John Charles Fremont, explorer, New York, 1890; Alfred Marshall, economist, Cambridge, 1924; Vladimir Jabotinsky, Zionist lead-er, New York, 1940; Arnold Schoenberg, composer, Los Angeles, 1951; Sir Seretse Khama, 1st President of Botswana 1966-80. London, 1980; Kenneth More, ac-

The Treaty of Berlin (Peace with Honour) was signed, 1878. The first World Cup football contest was held in Montevideo, Uruguay, 1930. Europe accepted Marshall Aid, the American plan to help European recovery after the Second World

tor, London, 1982.

A power failure blacked out New York, 1977.

Church news

Canon Trevor Willmott, Canon Residentiary and Sacrist of Peter-borough Cathedral (Peterborough): to be Archdeacon of Durham and Residentiary Canon of Durham Cathedral (Durham).

The Rev Terence Pigrem, Priest-in Charge, Abbess Roding and Beauchamp Roding w White Roding (Chelmsford): to be also Rurai Dean of Dunmow (same

The Rev Susan Shipp, Vicar, Longwell Green and Ecumenical Officer for Bristol Archdeaconry: to be also Honorary Canon of Bristol Cathellen!

The Rev Paul Taylor, Vicar, St Andrew, Southgate (London): to be Vicar, St Mary, Hendon and Christ Church, Hendon (same

Canon Glyn Webster, Senior Chaplain, York Health Services NHS Trust, York District Hospital (York): to be also Rural Dean of

The Rev Trevor Beedell, Director of Christian Stewardship (Derby) to retire October 12. The Rev Brian Bessant, Vicar, Frimley Green (Guildford) to retire September 30.

The Rev Tod Dalton, Rector, Norton Sub Hamdon, West Chinnock, Chiselborough and Middle Chinnock (Bath & Wells) to retire October 31. The Rev Rodney Stone, Vicar, St Barnabas, Winchester (Win-

chester) to retire September 30. The Rev Colin de Fraine Tickner, Rector, Ockley, Okewood & Forest Green (Guildiord) to retire August

lain, St John the Evangelist, St

Raphael, France (Europe) to retire November I. The Rev John Williams, Priest-in-Charge, Kedington (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich) to retire September 30 and to be Chaplain, to the Community of St Katharines Parmoor, High Wycombe (Ox-

Withdrawal of Accepta The Rev Derek Chandler has withdrawn his acceptance of the post of Team Vicar, Melton Mowbray Team Ministry and Framland Deanery Youth Chap-

Forthcoming marriages

Mr Z. Avramov
and Miss J. West
The engagement is announced
between Zoran, only son of Mr and
Mrs Djordje Avramov, of
Belgrade, and Juanita, youngest
daughter of Mrs W.A. West and
the late Professor W.A. (Tony)
West, of South Kensington,
London. Mr Z. Avramov

Mr R.J. Blackhan and Miss A.S. Ord The engagement is announced between Robin, son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Geoffrey Blackham, of Tadmarton, Oxfordshire, and Amanda Samane, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Ord, of Malpas, Cheshire. Mr D. Blaikley and Mile L. Marlio-Marette

and Mile I. Marlio-Marette
The engagement is announced
between David, younger son of
Mrs Dawn Blaikley-Colwill, of
Paignon, Devon and the late Mr
Bruce Blaikley, and Laure,
daughter of Mme Marie-Rence
Marlio-Marette, of Versailles,
France, and the late M Bernard
Marlio-Marette.

Mr J.M. Breaks Mr J.M. Breaks
and Miss S.L. Crisp
The engagement is announced
between Jonathon, younger son of
Mr and Mrs M.R. Breaks, of Hale
Barns, Cheshire, and Sarah,
daughter of Dr and Mrs J.J. Crisp,
of Sutton Poyntz, Dorset.

Mr A.W. Gosnay and Miss C.L. Thornton The engagement is announced between Andrew William, only son of Mrs Ann Gosnay, of Leeds and the late Judge Maxwell Gosnay, and Claire Louise, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Harry Thornton, of Ossett, West Yorkshire. Mr G.G. Graham and Miss E.J. Millar

and Miss E.J. Milliam
The engagement is announced between Gordon, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Joseph Graham, of Kings Langley. Hertfordshire, and Emma, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Deighton Millar, of Chariton Horethorne, Somerset. Mr W.E.S. Jewson

and Miss E.F. Quigley
The engagement is announced
between William, son of Mr and
Mrs Richard Jewson, of Barnham Broom, Norfolk, and Esther, elder daughter of Mr Maurice Quigley, of Bedey, Kent and the late Mrs Quigley.

Mr A.S. Jostham and Miss R. Bello and Muss R. Belle The engagement is announced between Alexander, younger son of Mr and Mrs Rex Justham, of Streatley, Berkshire, and Raquel, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs José Antonio Bello, of Madrid,

Mr R.K. Semple and Miss J.R. O'Brien The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Dr and Mrs Semple, of Glasgow, and Jo-Ann, daughter of Professor and

Mrs O'Brien, of Nottingham. Mr A. Watt and Miss C. Pearcey The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr Michael Watt and the late Mrs Susan Watt and stepson of Mrs Zandra Watt, of Greens Park, Towcester. Northamptonshire, and Caroline, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs James Pearcey, of

Marriages Sir Anthony Reeve

and Mrs S. Doull The marriage took place in Oxford, on Friday, July II, of Sir Anthony Reeve, of Horsley, Gloucestershire, and Mrs Susan Doull, née Collins, of Durban, South Africa.

Mr M. Grenier and Miss E. Turner and Miss E. Turner
The marriage took place on Saturday, July 5, 1997, at Eton College
Chapel, Eton, Berkshire, between
Mr Michael Grenier, youngest son
of Mr and Mrs David Grenier, of
Guildford, Surrey, and Miss
Emma Turner, daughter of the late Professor Paul Turner, CBE, MD, and of Mrs Katie Turner, of Ascot,

Mr E.G. Wale and Miss J. Gorman The marriage took place on July 5, 1997, at St Mary's Church. Acton. Cheshire, of Mr Edward George Wale, son of Captain and Mrs Derrick Wale, of Leicester, to Miss Joanne Gorman, daughter of Mr

John K. Gorman and Mrs Ann

VINDP

 $i_{i_1\cdots i_p}$

75

The bride was attended by Mrs Victoria Wells, Miss Dawn John-son, and Emily and Hollie Wells. Mr Richard Shepherd was best

Royal engagements | Service dinner this weekend

TODAY: The Duke of York will present the prizes at the Loch Lomond Golf International at the Loch Lomond Golf Club, Luss, Dunbartonshire, at 11.30

The Duke of Kent, as Patron, Kent County Cricket Club, will atter the Benson and Hedges final against Surrey County Cricket Club. Lord's Cricket Ground, at

TOMORROW-

The Duke of York will take part in the Roxburghe Golf Challenge Match in aid of Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund at the Roxburghe Golf Course, at 2.00.

Dinner

Royal College of Radiologists Professor Anthony Pinching delivered the 41st Crookshank lecture to the Royal College of Radiologists new fellows held yesterday at the college. Professor Jean-Claude Horiot and Professor Herman Suit were admitted as honorary

Dr M.J. Brindle, president of the college, was the host at the Crookshank dinner held afterwards at the Royal College of Physicians in honour of Professor Pinching. Professor Horiot and

RAF St Athan Air Chief Marshal Sir John Allison, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Logistics Command, was dined-out last night from RAF St Athan by Air Commodore P.J.Scott, Station Commander and Air Officer Wales, and Officers of RAF St Athan, Wing Commander

for the ensuing year:

The following have been installed officers of the Cordwainers' Com pany for the ensuing year: Master, Mr R.P.B. Skinner: Senior Warden, Dr R.K.H. Parker: Stew ard Warden, Mr C.E. Hamill-Stewart; Renter Warden, Mr J.C. Peal.

Ms Alexandra Jones to be Chief Executive of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy.

Vintners

The following have been installed officers of the Vintners' Company Master, Mr F.C.D. Berry Green; Upper Warden, Mr P.E. Cooper; Renter Warden, Mr A.J. Buchanan: Swan Warden. Mr D.B.

Cordwainers

Appointment

Church services tomorrow

Seventh Sunday after Trinity ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL ABERDEEN: 8 HC: 10.15 S Euch, Merbecke: 6,30 EP. HC: 10.15 Secin, Meroecce, 0.30 E. 11 M. Lead me Loro (Wesley), Mr D McGuckin: 3.15 E. BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC: 11 S Euch, Holy, Holy, Holy (Schubert), 1 sat down (Balrstow): 3.30 E. Murrill in E. O Thou the central orb (Wood).

central orb (Wood).

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP. 9.15 HC.

11 Ch Euch. Missa brevis in D (Mozart). O taste and see (Yaugham Williams), Rev V Cory.

4 Ch E. Responses (Rose). Watson in E.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.15 Ch M. Teach me O Lord (Attwood). Canon Gaillee; 10.30 Euch. Messe Solonelle (Langlais). Canon Gallie. E. Ascribe unto the Lord (Wesley). Canon Gaillee. BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch: 11 Euch, Missa brevis de sancti Joannis de Deo Missauli Science Service

M; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch, Missa brevis in B flat (Mozari). Ave verum (Elgar), Canon P Johnson: 3.30 Ch E. Responses (Leighton), Brewer in D. The Dean. Brewer In D. The Dean.
CADEIRLAN BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 HC:
11 Ch Euch. Little Organ Mass (Haydn), Ave
verum (Elgan); 3, 15 Ch E. Evening Service In
(Aston)... Hear. O thou shepherd of Israel

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL 8 HC: 9.30 M; 11 S Euch, God be in my bead (Radcilife). The Dean: 3.15 E, Responses (Clucas), Stanford in 8 flat: 6.30 Compline. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF

Euch: 3.30 E.
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8
HC: 10 M. Britten in C. The Archdeacon: 11.15
S Euch. Messe Solenelle (Langlais). O sacrum
convivium (Messlaem). Canon O'Donovan: 6
E. Stanford in A. Blessed cly (Bairstow).
COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP. 10.30
Euch. Stanford in C & F. O Lord give Holy
Spirit (Taillis). Canon C Lamb: 5 E. Responses
(Clucas). Wood in E flat. (Clucas). Wood in e nat.

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch,
Missa brevis (Walion). Jehova quam multes
Plurcell). Rev R Parsons; 6 Ch E, Responses
(Leighton), Wood in E flat. A Flintham.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 11.15 HC.
Collegium Regale (Howells), Rev G Forbes:

DEATHS

3.30 E. Howells in B minor, Give unto the Lord (Elgar). Lord (Elgar).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Vaughan Williams In G minor, Sing joyfully (Byrd), Rev B Down; 3.45 E, Magnilleat Primi Toni (Palestrina), Nunc Dimittls (Sarum).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, O taste and see (Williams), Stanford in C & F. Canon A Mawson; 11.15 M, Collegium Begale (Howelis), Cantate Domino (Monteverd), Rev G Dazter; 3 E. Bairstow in D, How lovely is thy dwelling place (Brahms): 6.30 ES, For Io, 1 raise up (Stanford), Canon D Ison.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8, 12.15 HC: raise up (Stanford), Canon D Ison,
GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8, 12.15 HC,
10.15 Euch, Stanford in C, Mrs C Pascoe; 3 E,
Tantum ergo (Durufle), Vox dicentis (Nayton,
GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 S
Euch, O taste and see (Vaughan Williams),
The Dean; 11.15 M, Jubilate (Walton), They
that go down to the sea (Purcell), Canon G
Jones 6.30 E, Canon J Schofleid. HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 Euch. Collegium Regale (Howells), Here O my Lord (Whittock), The Succentor: 11.30 M, Stanford in B flat. Cowland in G: 3.30 E. Wood in E flat. O thou, the central orb (Wood).

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 M: 10.30 S. Euch. Flocks in pastures (Bach). The LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Mass in G (Schubert). A: Hymn to St Cedila (Howells), The Bishop: 3.30 E, Responses (Rose), Collegium Regale (Howells). LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Darke in E, Give us the wings of faith (Bullock), Rev J Pavey; 11.15 M, Stanford in B flar: 5 EP. LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP; 10.30 Euch, Canon M Boyling: 3 E, The Dean; 4 HC.

Canon M Boyling: 3 E. The Death a rt.

LIANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & L. 11 S

Euch, Schubert in C. Blest are the pure in
heart (Webb). Rev N H Brown; 12.15 Euch;
3.30 Ch E. Gray in F minor, Hear my prayer
[Mendelssohn]: 6.30 E & S MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 M: 10.30 S Euch. Missa sancti Nicolas (Haydin), Canon J Alberton: 6.30 E. I was glad (Parry), Responses (Stewart), The Dean.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC:
9.30 S Euch, Jackson in G. The Lord bless you and keep you (Rutter). Canon R Best; 6 Ch E. Stanford in C, Responses (Ayelward).

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M. Responses (Sumsion), Stanford in B flat. Archdeacon of Monmouth: 6.30 E. Have mercy upon me (Tomkins), Rev S Lodwick. mercy upon me (Tomkins). Rev S Lodwick.

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP, 8 HC;

10.30 S Euch, Missa brevis (Leichton), O
sacrum contvium (Messiaen). The Archdeacon; 3.30 E Stanford in A. Lo, the full final
sacrifice (Finzi). Canon R Hammer.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M & L;

9 Euch, Sumsion in F, K Mackay: 11 Family
Service, Hymn to St Cecilia (Howells).

Antiphon (Yaughan Williams): 5.30 E.

Canon J Hedges; 11 S Euch, O taste and see (Vaughan Williams), Salve regina (Poulenci, The Provost; 6.30 E, Rev M Macvicar. RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 8.45 M; 9.30 Euch, O Lord, give thy holy spirit (Tailig, Carnon J Beli; 11.30 Ch Euch, Like as the hart (Howells), Rev D Muriet; 5.30 E, Responses (Rose, Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis (Wood). ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL 8 HC: 9.45 M Responses (Reading), Stanford in C: 10.30 s Euch, Leighton in D, Canon P Avanti; 3.15 E If ye love me (Tallis), Wood in D. ALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 Euch, Collegium Regale (Howelis), Let all mortal flesh keep silence (Bairstow), Canon D Slater: 11.30 M. Sumsion in B (lat. Responses (Shephard), Dr D Downling: 3 E. Responses (Shephard), Murtill in E.

SHEPFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.30 S
EUCh, Canon G Tolley: 6.30 E. Ven S Love.
SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Ch
Euch, Messe Solennelle (Vierne). The Lord
biess you and keep you (Rutter), Rev R White: 3
Ch E Collegium Regale (Howells), For 10, 1
raise up (Sunford), Rev D Painter. raise up (standing), ker it Painter.
SOUTHWELL MINSTER 7.30 M & L.8 HC: | 1
S Euch. Schubert in G, Be still. my soul
(Ashfield). The Provost; 3.15 E, Collegium
Regale (Howelis), Great is the Lord (Eigar). regare triowing from the trip of trip wakEFIELD CATHERDRAL: 8 HC: 9.15 C. Canon R Gage: 11 S Euch, Mass for Two Cholis (Widor), Ave verum corpus (Mozart, Bishop R George of Guyana; 6.30 E. Responses (Bielby), Kelly in C. Canon R. Canon.

Responses (Bielby), Relly in C. Canon R Capper.
WESTMINSTER ABBEY: B HC: 10 M. Responses (Tailis). To Deum (Tornkins). Caron D Huit; 11.15 Euch, Schubert in G, O true bread (Vanni, Where thou reigness (Schuberd, The Dean; 3 E. Service in the part (Schuberd, The Dean; 3 E. Service in the part (Welkes), Rev D Tillyer: 6.30 ES, The Dean.
WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, To Deum in C (Stanford), Locus Iste (Bruckner), Rev A K Walker; 11.30 S Euch, Mass in E flat (Rheinburger), Fugue in D (Bach); 3.30 E, Howells in B minor, Responses (Shephard).
The Dean.

The Dean.
YORE MINSTER: 8 HC, 8.45 HC, 9.30 M; 10 S
Each, Canterbury Service (Moore), Rev D
Sheppard: 4 E, How lovely is thy dwelling.
ST ALBANS CATREDRAL, Hertfordshire: 8
HC, 9.30 Euch, Skut cervus (Palestrina), Rev
M Tavinor, 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Kodaly);
6.30 E, Responses (Clucas), Wesley In E,
Canon Risson. ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Ch M. Cantique de Jean Racine (Fauré), Rev C A Mitchell; 3.30 EP. ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 Euch: 11.15 Ch M, Stanford In A, Lord, we beseet these (Barent: 1 Sea Service; 6 Ch E, O Lord, the maker of all thing (Mundy). How beauteous are the test (Stanford).

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark 8, 10, 6 LM; 11,30 SM, Rev J Boyle; 3 Ordinations to Priesthood ST GILES CATHEDRAL Edinburgh: 8 HC; 10 HC. Missa brevis (Gabriell). The Minister; 11.30 MS. Bruttate Deo (Palestrina). The Minister; 8 ES. Rev J Williams. ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen 11. Rev D Molyneaux, 6. Rev D Molyneaux. 11, kev D Molyneaux; 6. Rev D Molyneaux; 5T PAUL'S CATRIEDRAL, London: 8 HC: 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Schubert in G, Richte mich, Gott (Mendelssohn), Canon 5 Oliver; 3.15 E, Insanae et vanae curae (Haydn), Rev Helen Cuniffe. RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

Enrismore Gardens, London, SW7: 10.30 Divine Litarys, Kievan and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony.

All SAINTS. Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5, 15 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Harmoniemesse (Haydn). Rev Dr J Morris; 6 E & B. The Fifth Service (Tornkirs), The Vicar. ALL SOULS, Langham Place, WI: 11 Rev R Trist: 6.30 Rev R Tice. CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC: 11 M, Sing ye praises to our King (Copland), Rev D P ELBY: 12.15 HC: 6 E, Mr D Royce. CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTIAND. Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15 Rev S Hood; 6.30 Rev S Hood.

FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30, 12.30, 4.15, 6.15 LM; II FIM, HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC, Rev S Downham; 11 MS, Rev S Millar THE ORATORY, Brompson Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Heiligmesse (Haydri), Cantate Domino (Monteverdi), 12,30, 4,30, 7; 3,30 V & R. ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH, Iversa Gdas, W8: 11 Holy Mass. Archbishop Y Gizirian. WESLEYS CHAPEL, Chy Road, EC2: 9.45 HC:

SWI: 11, b.30,
ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smith-field, ECI: 9 HC: 11 Ch Euch, Missa O quam gioriosum (Victoria), The Rector.
ST BRIDES, Fleer Street, EC4: 1! Ch M, Jubiliate (Gardner), Ireland in C. Canon J Calest, 6.30 Ch E, Responses (Rose), Stanford in C. Canon J Oates: ST CLEMENT DANES: II Ch M, Britten In C, When David heard (Tomidns). Rev P Bishop. ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street. SWI: 11 Rev J H McIndoe; 6.30 Rev A Cairus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOURTH WAY SCHOOL to the bing tradition of Gurdieff Ouspensky 0181 347 5253.

LEE BARNESDALE, its official yet ready are first cham! Now go out there and get a job! All my love Tagha.

never forget yea

Sep Clusty No. 27/84

THE ARMY BENEFICE DIT FUND

DEPT TM, 41 GUEENTS GATE, LONDON SW7 SHR

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11, 6.30,

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 SM, Asperges Me (Palestrina), Lied (Vierne). ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Rheinberger in E flat, The Rector. ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev H Valentine, 5.45 EP. ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Family Service, Rev J Richardson. Rev J Richardson.
ST LUKE'S, Chelsea. SW3: 8 HC: 10.30 HC,
Welcome sweet and sacred feast (Finzi), Rev C
Kevill-Davies: 6.30 E, Beatl quorum via
(Stanford), Rev C Kevill-Davies. ST MARKS, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Ireland in C, Ave verum (Mozart), Rev A Ramahaletima.

ST MARGARETS. Westminster, SWI: 11 S Euch, Rev Dr P Bradshaw. ST MARTIN-IN-TRE-PIELDS, WC2: 8 HC: 9.45 Euch; 5 Ch E; 6.30 ES. ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, WI: 8 HC: 11 Ch Euch, Missa Maria Magdalene (Lobo), The Rector. ST MICHAEL'S, Combill, EC3: 11 Ch Euch. Ave verum corpus (Byrd), Four part Mass (Byrd), Ven G Reid. ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SWI: 8, 9 HC: 11 S Euch. Missa brevis (Gabriell), O sacrum convivium (Croce), Rev N Dawson. ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina), Laudamus te (Bach), Pr D B Tillyer. ST SIMON ZELOTES, Müner St. SW3: 8 HC; 11 M, Te Deum in Füreland), The Spirit of the Lord (Bigar), Rev P Rancyck; 6.30 E, Rev P Hiney.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M, Responses (Tomkins), Te Deum (Chanti. Rev P CHAPEL ROYAL, SI James's Palson 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Thy word is a lantern (Purceil), Canon E Buchanan. CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palece: 8.30 HC; 11 M, Sing joyfully (Byrd), 3.30 E, Watson in E, They that go down to the sea (Sumsion).

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 M. Te Deum (Cole), The Heavens are teiling (Haydn), Mr J Lang. GRAYS INN CHAPEL 8 South Sq. WCIR: 11.35 Livine Service.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC: 11.15 MP, Responses (Ratcliffe). To Deum laudamus (Leightion), Rev J Paul.

GUARDS CHAPEL Wellington Barracks.
SWI: 11 M. Christ within me (Beethoven). The God of Israel (Rossini), Rev I. Bryan: 12.00 HC. ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SBIO: 11 Ch Euch. Collegium Regale (Howells). Cantique de Jean Racine (Pauré), Rev C French.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

There are varieties of service but the same Lord. There are varieties of activity but in all of them and in everyone the same God is active. 1 Corinthians 12:5,6 BIRTHS Al-YOUSEF - On July 7th at The Portland Hospital, to Alia and Sased, a son, Onseir, a brother for Mouza, Rawdah, Meera, Alyania and Abdullah. ANDREYEV - On 2nd June, Daniel Alexel, a son for Catherine (nee Harwood) and Jerroise, a brother for Joseph.

BYRME - On July 11th 1997 in

Iwerne Minster, to Stitch
and Stephen, a daughter,
Ophelis Helen Martha, a

walcome aister for Toseland. DAVES - On june 24th 1997, to Amabel (née Robinson) and Michael, a long awaited daughter, Tatlana Louise Chater, a sister for Alexander, Mart-Phillipe and Sabastion

Sebastian

DANYES-On 6th July, to Alison
(née Cazane) and Gorden, a
daughter, Fenelope
Josephine Rosenarie, a
sister for Emily.

GRIDWHADE On July 9th at
The Fortland Hospital, to
Julia (née Inant) and John, a
son, John Girting (lack), a
brother for Antonia. brother for Antonia. GIVON - On July 9th at The Portland Hospital, to Ida (ase Diagono) and David, a son, Alexander, a brother for Louisa.

Louisa.

HANGON - On July 5th, to Jona on the Macciowell) and Tim, a beautiful son, Orlando Gabriel Walter, brother for Toby and another playmare for Lundy.

HOGAN-FIERHING - On July 10th at Queen Charlotts's, to Dawn and Arthur, a daughter, Lucy Olivia, a sister for Hugh, John and Emma. Emma.

RRAFIMAN - On July 8th at
The Fortland Hospital, to
Lauren (née Cohn) and
Michael, a son. A brother for
our lovely girls.

IEWELLYW - Oz lith july 1997, in Dunedin, New Zealand to Bob and Wendy, a baby boy, Thomas Samuel. baby boy, Thomas Sammel.

RAME - On 6th July, to Gillian
(ase Smith) and Nick, a
daughter, Cocily Fay, a sister
for Lydia and George.

ROSERTS - On July 3rd, to
Debbis (nse Champer Brown)
and Hamish, a beautiful
daughter, Amelia Florence, a
sister to Lily.

sister to Lily.
SIMCON - On 9th July 1997, to
Bernice (née Dymant) and
James, a daughter, Esme
Hope.
SIMONEAN - On July 9th at The
Portland Hospital, to Shefin
(née Harley) and Mark, a
son, Aldan Forbes, a brother
for Alexandra.

SIMPSOF - On July 9th at Liverpool, to Nicola and David, a daughter, Ametia Ente, a sister to Michael, Alex and Anna THORP - On 2nd July at Winchester County Hospital, to Mary and Jeromy, two sons, Alexander and Richelas, brothers for Peter and Harry.

ama marry.
WHIGHT - On July 9th 1997 in
Sydney, Australia, to Rinci
(náe Caplin) aud Pete, a
daughter, Eloise Charlotte, a
joyous first grandchild for
Sylvia. **ANNIVERSARIES**

HOWELL-JONES: JENSE Jonathan and Ingrid calebrate their first (News)paper anniversary today.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES Patrick and Grace (pee Taylor) at St George's. Bloomsbury, on 12th july SAPPHIRE ANNIVERSARIES

RENCKELLOW - On Saturday 12th July 1952 in Norwich, James Brian to Lavinia Mary ("Babe"). Now at Lytham St Annes, Congratulations and love from the whole family, especially your children Sarah, Anthony, Journe and John.

DEATHS

ADDISCUTT - On July 8th 1997 at home in Platt, William Stuart aged 85 years, dearly loved husbond of Jean and respected and much loved father of William, Deborah and Stuart. Private cremation. Thanksgiving Service at 28 Mary Platt on Wednesday July 16th at 2pm. Panily flowers only but domailons if desired to The Royal School for Deaf Children, Margata, có Viner Children, Margata, có Viner & Sons, High Street, West Mailing, ME19 6LU.

BAYLEY - Joyce Anita (Wee'un)
Yeh July pencefully after a
short Bluese, Moch Joyed by
all her relatives and many
triends, Funsual to be held at
81 Osmund's Church,
Methury, Osmond, Friday
18th July at 11.20 ata.
Flowers to Genesby Funeral
Service, Domhester (01305
262338).

B21.1 - On 10th July, pencefully whilst on boliday in North Wales, Jumes L'Argent Bell MBE, 3rd/12th Frontier Force Regiment, dear father of Anna and Simon and grandfather of Leigh and Markher.

COVENTRY - James Edward Campbell who died in St Albans at home on Sth July 1997. Formerly a Meteorologist Cand Cimutologist Loved by his wife Shella and family. Funeral Service to be held at United Reformed Church, Homewood Road, St Albans on Priday 18th July 1997 at 11 am followed by peivate cremation at West Horts Crematorium. All further emquiries to Philips Funeral Services, tel: (01727) 851006.

CUE-Constance Eathleen (née Wigmore) passed away peacefully after a short illness at Enyal United Hospital, Bath, on Friday July 11th 1997. Much loved mother of Bernard Funeral Service at Haycombe Crematorium, Bath, on Wednesday July 16th at 1.30pm. Flowers or donations, if desired, to Camper Research Campaign may be sent to Jolly's Femeral Directors, 7 Windsor Place, Upper Ristel Road, 124822.

Openially - Martins (formerly Wolfanden), peacefully in Cork on 10th July, 1997. Deeply mourned and remembered with joy by all and friends. ELGOOD - Brune, Brigadier, suddenly and peacefully at home after a good innings on 10th 1911, 1997. Deeply loved and most loving husband, father and grandfather of Jaqueline, Tony, Judy and Wendy and nine grandchildren. Family cremation followed by Thanksgiving Service at Pauntley Church. Enquiries and donations for SAGFA or Pauntley Church to Smiths Funeral Services, Funnece Lane, Newant, Glos. GL18 1DD. (01531) 820474.

1230pm.

JARMAN - Tim, on 21st June, implically, whilst working for Mongolia. Darling husband of Sally, loved and loving father of East and Peter. A gentle, generous man whose work in developing countries enhanced all those he mat. Missed by family and friends the world over. Femeral, Carist Church, Rath, on Friday 25th July at 230pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only c/o Co-op F/S, tel: (01225) 314304.

McMORRAM - Lauzo (nés (01225) 314304.

McMORRAM - Lauao (nés Convoy) Finchley, London N12 - July 5th, 1997 (unexpectedly) at Barnet General Hospital. Beloved wife of Chris and dear mother of Sofia; radly missed by her loving family and friends in Ireland, England and America. Funcal Service at Handon Crematorium on Monday July 14th at 230 pm.

MEMBOCCH - Famile Ease (nés

On the fally (nee Carr) on 9th fally 1997 at 5t Willreds Hospice, Chichester, after a courageous fight, now at peace. Much loved and greatly missed by her husband Laurie, his children Andrew and Wendy, Emily and triends. Service at the Chichester Creimstrium on Monday July 14th at 12.30pm.

July 14th at 2.30 pm.
MERDOCH - Framie Easte (née
Martino) om 10th July 1997
at Burwood Will, Roodstone,
after a long illness borne
with great patience, wife and
folded of Whired (Bill) for
nessty 60 years, much loved
mother of Goorge and John
and grandmother of Gillian
and jamifies, Franily flowers
only, Enquiries to Tappers
(01202) 694449. PEARCE - Gladys (Brookie) on 10th July, in Dorchester, 25ed 92 years. No Clovers by request. Donations, please, to the joseph Weld Hospics, Herringston Road,

PENNESELATHER-HADDER
Ellen Marie passed away
14th June 1997 aged 72
years of cameer at Shands
Hospital Univ. of Florida,
USA. She is predocessed by
her husband Dr. John C.
Hadder and is succeeded by
her daughter Stephanie E
Milton-Thompson of
Hampe hire, and John E.
Hadder of Nevada, USA.
Funeral Service August 4th
In Chio, USA. All donations
and enquiries: Andrew
Milton-Thompson (01420)
544516.

544516.

Fittalado - Sir David on 9th july suddenly but peacefully at home. Greatly loved and adoust father of jennifer and Alastat, loving inthe-th-leve of William and Karen, devoted Grandfather Thiding temms, Victoria, Jonathan, Samantha, Alexander, Toby and Jeremy. Huch loved and dear friend of many of all ages. A Service of Thanksgiving for his life will be hald at 10 am at 5t Simon Zelotes, Milner Street, Chelsen on Monday 21st july, followed by custostion at Morthata. No flowers by requise. Any enquiries to J.H. Kenyon, 74 Sochester Row, London 5W17 1JU, telr (0171) 834-4624.

SCOTT - John of Loxion,
Somerset, Fescefully on Joby
9th. Daving hesband and
fathez. Funesal Sarvice at
Loxion Parish Church on
Wednesday [uly 16th at
11am. No flowers but
donations for the Vetenta
Speedway Riders
Association may be sent to
C.V. Gower & Son, Funesal
Directors, The Square,
Winstambs, North Somerset.
Tel: (01934) 842945. SELBY - Atherton died penculally on Pth July at Grosvenor Park Nursing Home, Bentill-on-Sea. Ro funeral service at his

STOWERS - Ina STOWERS - Ina (née Eowbotham) peacethily on July 10th aged 87, denzly loved mother of Alison and grandmother to Relez, Christopher and Louise. Chichester Crumaterium Pidny July 18th at 12:30pm. Family Howers Denzitons to EWII clo E. White, 5 South Pallant, Chichester, PO19 15Y.

WILSON - Charles David passed away peacefully on Sth July 1997 on the ere of his 93rd birthday, loving husband of Blaime and stepfather of Charles, Caroline and Alice, Private family service. Donations if desired to The Injured Jockey's Fund c/o S.J. Backwell Funeral Service, 32A Brook Street, Tavistock, Davon PL19 OHE, tel: (01822) 612034.

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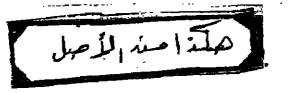
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Alexander Cordell, novelist, was found dead in a stream near Llangollen, North Wales. on July 9 aged 82. He was born in Colombo, Ceylon, on September 9, 1914.

n incongruous figure to be espousing Welsh radical causes, with his military moustache and clipped British Army manner, Alexander Cordell nevertheless made a reputation both in and outside Wales for a series of novels depicting the sufferings endured by the dwellers of the South Wales Valleys during the Industrial Revolution. This began with the highly coloured Rape of the Fair Country, which appeared in 1959 and was an immediate popular success. The other titles of what became a trilogy, The Hosts of Rebecca (1960) and Song of the Earth (1969), built for Cordell a strong following, and this was sustained by a second trilogy which he published during the 1970s and 1980s.

These books were very far from winning him the approval of the Weish literary establishment which suspected him of dishing up a shamelessly sentimentalised por-trait of Weish working class life complete with over-egged funny accents and prurient sex — for the purposes of commercial gain. Cordell in his turn robustly assailed the Welsh Arts Council and its grant-subsidised writers.

He particularly condemned poets as a useless breed, and when, in the 1970s, the late John Tripp tried to stand up for himself and fellow practitioners of the art of verse, Cordell went for him in the letters columns of the Western Mail, pointing out that no one had ever

heard of Tripp while he, Cordell enjoyed an international reputation.

Tripp (who has his own permanent niche in Penguin Modern Poets, besides having published several slim volumes of his own) defended himself in the same paper, pointing out that for modern poets commercial success, as a popular novelist understood it, was not the sole criterion of merit. On behalf of his fellow poets he declined to be "driven over by Mr Cordell's Jaguar and brisk, military mannerisms"

Cordell was, perhaps, on firmer ground when he attacked the Welsh Arts Council for awarding a El,000 International Writer's Prize to the French playwright Eugène Ionesco, when there was little enough money to go round to support home grown authors. But he can hardly have been surprised when the council did not look favourably on his proposal that it should fund an Alexander Cordell prize for novelists.

Nevertheless, though a British Empire born and bred English-man. Cordell developed a sincere regard for his adoptive country. In his later years he espoused many causes relating to the preservation of the environment and the attempt to stem the decay of rural life and the erosion of the Welsh small community.

Alexander Cordell was born

George Alexander Graber in Colombo, the son of a regimental sergeant major in the Royal Engineers. As an army child he had a peripatetic upbringing and was partly educated by the Marist Brothers in Tianjin. Following in his father's footsteps he, too, joined the Royal Engineers as soon as he

ALEXANDER CORDELL



was old enough, and rose to the rank of major during the Second Demobilised in 1965, he worked

for the Civil Service as a quantity surveyor in the Monmouthshire valleys. But he had privately deter-mined to become a successful

writer, and it was the history of old iron towns, such as Tredegar and Ebbw Vale, that provided him with the impetus for his work.

A first novel, A Thought of Honour (1954), disappeared without trace, but with The Rape of the Fair Country he opened his account in earnest. In its graphic tale of capital versus labour in the iron foundries of the Monmouthshire valleys during the Industrial Revolution, it inevitably invited comparison with Richard Llewellyn's earlier How Green Was My Valley and its depiction of the impact of coalmining on the rural communities of South Wales.

نعلَدًا منه لذمل

In fact, Cordell did not really have Llewellyn's gift for catching the lilt and idiom of English as it is spoken by Welshmen (Llewellyn was, of course, Welsh born). And although he had done impressive research on the book's themes the struggle for trade union rights, Chartism, the harshness of working conditions — a lush romanticism tended to be all-pervading. In the treatment of sex — young Welsh women were inevitably portrayed as wild and lusty — there was an uncomfortable approach to what has subsequently become known as the "bodice-ripper".

But, however much Welshmen might cavil at this portrait of themselves and their lack of control over their libidos. The Rape of the Fair Country enjoyed huge popularity. Its successors, The Hosts of Rebecca, which depicted the Rebec-ca Riots of West Wales in which insurgent gangs dressed up as women, and The Song of Earth, in which mineworkers escape from their environment by becoming bargemen, established for Cordell solid popularity among devotees

of the "good read". Cordell now branched out. Race of the Tiger (1963) applied his saga style to events in famine-stricken

19th-century Ireland, following the fortunes of a brother and sister who are forced to emigrate from Connemara to America. Cordell's experience of the Far East was also drafted into the service of fiction. The Sinews of Love (1965) was set in Hong Kong: The Bright Cantonese (1967) was an espionage thriller about the threat of nuclear war between the United States and China; and The Dream and Destiny (1975) described Mao's Long March of the 1930s.

There was a feeling among reviewers that none of these quite did justice to Cordell's undoubted narrative gifts and it was to some relief among his faithful following that he turned back to Welsh industrial history for a second trilogy. This consisted of The Fire People (1972) about the 1831 Merthyr Tydfil rising; This Sweet and Bitter Earth (1977), which dealt with social and industrial unrest at Penrhyn and Tonypandy in the late Victorian and Edwardian eras: and Land of my Fathers (1983), a return to the Chartist period. Cordell published many other books and at the time of his death was working on a novel about the medieval Welsh prince Owain Glyndwr.

Cordell was an active member of the Welsh Nationalist Party, Plaid Cymru, and campaigned vigorousfor self-government for Wales. He was also vociferous on the closing of rural schools, on proposals for new opencast coalmines in the Vale of Neath and on a host of other environmental issues.

Since the death of his second wife Donnie in 1995, Cordell had led a largely reclusive life. He is survived by the daughter of his first marriage to Rosina Wells, who died in 1972.

HELENE PROPPER DE CALLEJON

Hélène Propper de Callejon, writer and artist died on June 28 ged 89. She was born on October 22, 1907.

A TOTAL cosmospolitan, Helene Propper de Callejon, or Bubbles" as she was generally known, was a writer, an artist and a generous hostess throughout her husband's diplomatic career. In later years her home in Chelsea lacked nothing but a crystal ball to convince the most astate observer that he had walked into luxurious three-storeyed

gypsy caravan..... She was an attentive and demanding mother and an inspirational grandmother and friend to many people.

These latter extended from Peter, the roadsweeper, to the Chelsea Pensioners round the corner, to the staff she fought with good-naturedly, through those who sought her help for depression (her devotees as she called them) to the great and the good. She looked with tenderness, ecumenical curiosity and an exuberant kindness on all those around her, an attitude which lost nothing for requiring in exchange some recognition of her own She was the eldest daughter

of Baron Eugene Fould and Mitzi Springer, an heiress in her own right. She grew up in the belle époque settings of her parents' beautiful homes, with their ceremonies and celebrations, their obligations and

As a child and young woman she was not best

TRUSTEE ACTS

served by circumstances which gave her great material comforts but little emotional stability. Her mother, Mitzi, was a capable, if domineering. woman of charm (who liked to sit up all night to watch

Muhammad Ali beat Sonny Liston for the world heavyweight championship). She ran her husbands, children and businesses like a conglomerate, where time (her time), ambitions and conve-



nience were highly prioritised. At Meidling, their cavernous and theatrical summer home (now headquarters of an Austrian political party), in Hungary and in France, between the Palais Abbatial at Royaumont and 54 avenue d'Iena in Paris, Bubbles and her siblings were brought up.

mostly by English nannies.
At the age of 18 she was iven her first exhibition in Paris, with Jean Cocteau and Max Jacob, adopting 'Praday" as a pseudonym. After the Second World War she published two collections of her poetry in Paris -Croquis and Album, and another volume Absents de Nous Même, which contained her thoughts on depression, and advice on how to come through it. She successfully

Loved My Stay just two days before she died In 1929 Bubbles married the Spanish diplomat Eduardo Propper de Callejon. After ably supporting his distinguished career - from helping Jews to escape Nazism through to charge d'affaires and ambassadorial posts in Washington, Ottawa and Oslo

— they retired to live in

completed a memoir entitled I

London Bubbles was beautiful and admired as such, but to a gifted and sensitive girl this nad never been enough on which to build both a character and a career. She writes in her memoirs of coming into her mother's room to say good morning, and being offered a hand to kiss. Her mother rarely turned her head to

acknowledge her but, when she did, it was to rearrange the famous curls. It was not surprising, therefore, that Bubbles started life by tending more diligently to the outer than to the inner woman in order to gain her parents' approbation. Consequently, it was all the more impressive that in later life, after her husband's death, and through periods of deep sadness, she set about the task of learning how to live again, and to discover, and put to use, the best in herself.

"To live in hearts we love, is not to die" was a phrase she noted down in one of her books, adding that she was not sure if she had plagiarised the quote, but was quite sure that she believed in it. For all her creative gifts, developed and honed with constantly soughtfor comments from her family, she will be remembered most of all for her human generosity, and a talent to identify with those with whom she came in contact. People laughed more with her; they shone when she succumbed to

She learnt to live vicariously

in the best sense of the word. She would wait impatiently for regular reports on Felipe, her son, and his varied activities. Her daughter Elena became a psychotherapist, and Bubbles, with indomitable curiosity, added what she could learn from this to her own repertoire. One granddaughter, Helena Bonham Carter, became a film actress, and Bubbles, with panache, took on stardom, but her genius lay in allowing people to become themselves for her. This could be mistaken for vanity some-times, a desire for flattery, a need for compliments and perhaps these things were all there; but the difficulties were born only from her overwhelming need to share, and participate in, the lives of those who mattered to her.

Sometimes her participation seemed invasive; sometimes she could seem more child than mother, but if her insecurities occasionally surfaced, her innocence and joie de vivre lent light and sweetness to all she touched. She is survived by her son Felipe and her daughter Elena

Bonham Carter.

MIGUEL NAJDORF

Miguel Najdorf. international chess grandmaster, died on July 6 aged 87. He was born on April 15, 1910.

MIGUEL NAJDORF was one of the great forces of chess. particularly during the late 1940s and early 1950s. He was possessed of an aggressive style, rich in imagination and always prepared for adven-ture. At his best he was a danger to the greatest. Sadly, his main ambition, that of winning the world championship itself, was denied to him. His own period of greatness coincided with the rise of the Soviet chess machine, which mass-produced grandmasters and top theoreticians through a state-supported system of chess tuition, competition and

team effort. A Jewish émigré from wartorn Europe, Najdorf, having fled Poland, had to make his own way in his newly chosen homeland of Argentina. Thrown entirely on his own resources, without a state apparatus to support him and, with the World Chess Federation heavily under the influence of the Soviet Union, and thus not particularly inclined to be charitable to a rival, Najdorf was never able to storm the absolute chess summit and assail successfully his Soviet opponents.

Nevertheless, he won the Argentine chess championship eight times and, by his presence and inspiration, he succeeded in making his adopted country one of the most forceful chess nations in the world. Najdorf won no fewer than 52 international tournaments and, whether in competition, friendly or simultaneous games, he managed to face all of the 13 world chess champions except for the very first one, Wilhelm Steinitz. Of the champions, he inflicted defeat on five - Botvinnik, Smyslov, Petrosian, Tal and Fischer. In international team events

he played in numerous chess Olympiads, at first for Poland and then II times for Argentina. As an ambassador for chess, for which role his outgoing and ebullient personality ideally suited him, he contested games against such personalities as Winston



Churchill, Nikita Khrushchev, the Shah of Iran, Juan Perón, Fidel Castro and Che Guevara. Always the gentleman over the chess board, Najdorf regularly offered draws to such personalities after a few moves. These draws were usually eagerly accepted with the exception of Che Guevara, who was almost master strength himself in chess. Having declined the draw, Guevara went on to Najdorf's name, in spite of

his numerous successes, may go down in chess history for the variation of the Sicilian Defence which he helped to popularise and which is now the favourite of the reigning world champion Garry Kasparov, as well as having been the preferred weapon of Bobby Fischer.

By the age of 25, Najdorf was already recognised as a serious player in the European chess environment. Durthe Buenos Aires Olympiad of 1939, while representing Poland, he sought asylum in Argentina and became an Argentine citizen in 1944. At that time he changed his first name from Moishe to Miguel. In Argentina he also made a fortune in the insurance business, which relieved him of the chessmaster's usual penury...

After the war Najdorf emerged as a leading tournament competitor, a position he maintained for a quarter of a century, winning first prizes at the tournaments of Prague and Barcelona in 1946, Venice in 1948. Bled and Amsterdam in 1950 and Havana in 1962. He was particularly deadly in the series of tournaments in Mar del Plata where he won outright in 1961, 1965 and 1968. In 1950 he won the prize for the best individual score on top board in the chess Olympiad.

While competing in serious tournaments Najdorf also felt it his duty to entertain the public. On one occasion in 1943 he played no fewer than 202 games at one and the same time while, later in the 1940s. he played an amazing 45 games at one and the same time without sight of any of the boards, registering a stag-gering performance of 39 wins, four draws and just two losses. In addition to this he was a brilliant "blitz" chess player, ready to take on allcorners at games of ten minutes' duration in total. To the end of his life he would offer large stakes to masters a fraction of his age.

Najdorf died in Malaga, Spain, after a lengthy illness. A chess lover to the end, he attended a chess exhibition given by Kasparov a week before his death.

He was twice married and is survived by one daughter of his second marriage.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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WATERLOO SUBSCRIPTION.

Yesterday a meeting of the inhabitants of Westminster was held in the Thatched House Tavern, St. James's, to take into consideration the propriety of appointing a committee to receive subscriptions for the relief and benefit of sufferers by the battle of Waterloo. Mr. Wilberforce said it would not be necessary for him to make any appeal to their feeling to fulfil the purpose for which they had met. They all knew how much was done, and how much was suffered. In other victories, however much our admiration might be excited, there might be some doubt with respect to the advantages of the result. In the present instance there could be no such doubt. Every one present, every man. every rank, every class in the country. felt their security increased by the issue of the battle of Waterloo.

When a question was asked with regard to the intention of including the

Hanoverians and Belgians as sharers in

ON THIS DAY

July 12, 1815

The Battle of Waterloo had been won but a number of problems were left in its

the charity that should be raised, it seemed to be expressed generally by the meeting, that, as fighting under Lord Wellington and contributing to the success of the various battles, they should not be neglected, though our own countrymen had the first claim upon our sympathy and charity. Mr. Rowcroft said that in the draught [sic] of the City Resolution the "British Army" had been mentioned, which left the destinations of their subscriptions open to liberal construction. The Duke of Wellington was agreed to be the most

proper person to decide who should be included. Mr. Rowcroft, from the City, stated that a letter had been received from Prince Blücher, mentioning that he had fought two battles, taken two forts, and masked two more in eight days; but that his army had suffered much, that he recommended his wounded Prussians to the liberality of the British, and begged that Mr. Wilberforce's charitable efforts might be solicited. A liberal subscription was immediately entered into.

On the 25th Buonaparte applied to the Provisional Government of France for two frigates which were immediately granted. Passports for his voyage to the United States were asked of the Duke of Wellington, who replied from his headquarters: "As to what regards a passport and protection for Napoleon to go to the United States: I must inform your Excellency that I have no authority from my Government to give any answer whatsoever to that demand"

(signed) WELLINGTON,

Loyalists condemn 'parade sell-out'

■ Moderate Orangemen faced a backlash from hardline Unionists after cancelling or redirecting four of today's July 12 parades. Dissidents within the Orange Order condemned the gesture as a sell-out to the IRA, and urged Unionists to pull out of peace talks. The Belfast County Grand Lodge called on all Unionist politicians to "unite and immediately withdraw from the 'talks process' ".....

Military bases may be used as jails

Six sites owned by the Ministry of Defence are being considered for conversion into emergency accomodation for low-

Debts on sale David Blunkett, the Education

Secretary, launched the Government's first privatisation with a Bill to raise £3.1 billion by selling student loans debt...

Freedom on hold

Ministers have postponed measures to increase freedom of information because of the complexity of the issues.... .. Page 4 Cut-price Internet

Schools could get unlimited use of

the Internet for El a pupil a year under plans by the telecommunications watchdog

Parents smart Parents are already paying a growing share of their children's

Name/Address

higher education bill Page 9 Mould sold

A smudge of mould from the culture used by Sir Alexander Fleming when he discovered penicillin in 1928 was sold in an auction lot that fetched £14,950 Page 10

Health victory

A multiple sclerosis victim won a legal fight after a health authority refused to fund £10,000-a-year treatment.. ... Page 11

Gay clergy

Many bishops have knowingly ordained or employed practising homosexual clergy, a survey is expected to disclose......Page 12

Kenya threat

Kenya's Opposition vowed to disrupt elections if the Government blocks reforms ...

SAS 'assassins'

Bosnian Serbs claimed British SAS units assassinated Simo Drljaca, the indicted war crimes suspectPage 17

Germans 'on target'

The German Government announced it would fulfil precisely on target the economic and monetary union public spending goal

Male anglers bait women on river bank

War between the sexes broke out in the world of fishing with a broadside by a leading British angler against "distracting and inhibiting" women on the riverbank - in the week a Coronation Street actor called women golfers "cockroaches"...... Page 1

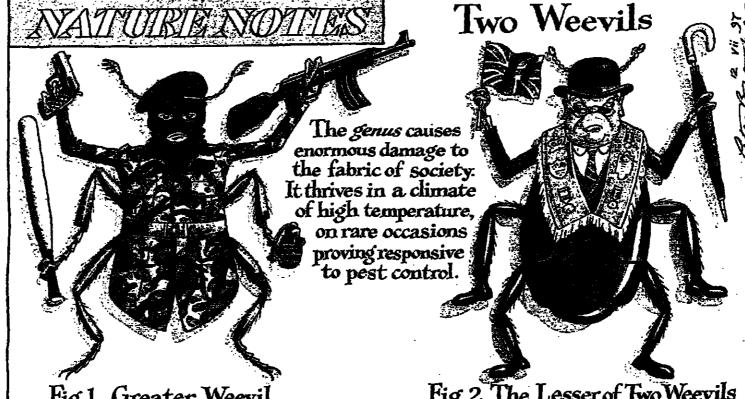


Fig.1 Greater Weevil (Ira nationalista)

Fig. 2 The Lesser of Two Weevils (Orangeus rerouteus)

OPINION

Ominous delay: Freedom of information is one of the few issues best tackled quickly, before ministers start to enjoy the power that secrecy affords . Page 23

Mandela effect: The means by which Mr Mandela relinquishes power may prove as important to South African democracy as the manner in which he left jail Page 23

LETTERS

Westminster Abbey restoration; Serb guilt; virtual pets; Countryside Rally: probation .. Page 23 supervision.

AA INFORMATION

UK Westher- All regions 0336 444 910 UK Roads - All regions 0336 401 410

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: Jonathan Dimbleby's book on Chris Patten, The Last Governor, contains allegations against British ministers and officials that amount to a charge of ... Page 22

Lord Irvine: The Government has begun this century's most extensive programme of constitutional reform..... Page 22

OBITUARIES Alexander Cordell, novelist;

Hélène Propper de Callejon, writer and artist: Miguel Najdorf, chess Page 25 DM2.9982... grandmaster...

BUSINESS ...

Bad connection?: Fears for BT's merger with MCI cut £2.4 billion off its share price Page 27 Cost cut: Merrydown, the

troubled cider and alcopops maker, will wield the boardroom axe in a £1.5 million cost-cutting exercise. Page 27 New bet: RF Hotels is in talks with gaming companies over casino plans...... Page 27

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 31.7 points to close at 4799.5. Sterling rose to 105.0 after rising from \$1.6875 to \$1.6945 and from DM2.9555 to Page 30

SPORT

Motor racing: Damon Hill

was twentieth in free practice on a lively day off the British Grand Prix track Page 52 Tennis: Britain were level 1-1 with Ukraine after the first day of their Davis Cup match in Kiev Page 51 Football: Sheffield United have issued a writ against their former manager, Howard Kendall Page 52

CARSI On course: Silverstone's Jordan team are planning a home win tomorrow

APTS

Richard Morrison: "The renaissance happening in Brighton could easily be mirrored across the British seaside, if only we took more pride in the fantastical maritime architecture to be found in practically every resort"..... Page 21

Urban angst: Irvine Welsh, begetter of Trainspotting, has written Headstate, a new show performed in a disused warehouse in London's Docklands. But Benedict Nightingale is not impressed Page 21

ANDON TODAY

SECTIONS

Erykah Badu Page 16 Sophle Dahl in lingerie daywear Page 40 Cycling and art ... Page 32 French feast...... Page 55

Weekend

Childhood spoils: Who's cashing in? Pages I. 2



in step: On the road with Mayo marchers ... Page 10 Travel: Morocco; Prague: Australia Pages 15-21

10 15

Windsurling: Meet a fabulous Baker boy Page 6 Which pet? Electronic or the real thing? ...,... Page 5



Still smiling: House music a decade on ... Win tickets for the Phoenix Music Festival Page 6 TV & radio: Pages 23-51

💥 Sunny

Suriny intervals

Choudy

Drizzie

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,530

A E20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London El 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

ACROSS

- I Bill gets free bitter (5).
- 4 Supporter concealing piece of malicious chatter (9). 9 Revolutionary led island overwhelming victory (9).
- 10 Substitute chocaholics are really outraged by, initially? (5).
- II It's allowable, but shocking, when laid on the line (6).
- 12 Stable with one acceptable horse
- 14 A number impair efficiency of probation (9).
- 16 Belief in sacred objects (5). 17 Seaman returning to deck, sort of
- 19 Identified tune with help, backing by newspaperman (9).
- 21 Someone auestioned when an explosive device is found in river
- 22 One leaves home before catching
- 25 I had quickly found island, in a manner of speaking (5).
- 26 Celandine flourished every so many years (9).
- Solution to Puzzle No 20,524

Solution to Puzzle No 20,529

over Henry (7).

dressing (5). 24 Almost lower boat (4).

27 Observes way in which advertise ment's introduced make-up (9).

28 Both 24 and 27 do make a

l Where you can see washing at

Restore Frenchman to wife (5).

Annoyance expressed by "Hell" and "Blast" (7).

5 Jack Sprat wouldn't indulge in gossip (4,3,3).
Rustic with a lot of objection to

Having bother getting up. one's brought before Head for unpunctuality (9).

8 Fairy's dressing of wool led to change (5,10).

13 Without regard to the con-sequences, like Charles II (4-6).

15 Adaptable relatives adapted (9).18 Victory (with valuable card I held)

20 He may hold shares in pit, in one that's fraudulent (7).

23 Beaver skin after completion of

presentation (5).

every point (3.5,3,4).

4 Gathering to cook (4).

pain (7).

DOWN

LAST WEER'S WINNERS: H E Bell, Redding, Berkshire: J P Histey, Formby, Merseyside: J H Gracey, Epping, Essex B Hague, Winchester, Hampshire: W Soloman, Daventry, Northants. The Times Crossword Championship 1997 will be staged at the first Mind Sports Olympiad at the Royal Festival Hall. London, on Sunday August 24.

The qualifying crossword for this year's championship will be published in The Times next Thursday. July 17. See page two for further details.

N. iretand 456 341 Landon 416 342

ather Ö<u>lle Met Office</u>

AA Car reports by fax

HOURS OF DARKNESS Sun sets: 9.14 pm Moon rises Moon sets 12.06 am 1.02 pm

Inisticularia de la mode London 9 14 pm to 4 59 am Bristol 9 24 pm to 5 09 am Bristol 9 24 pm to 5 09 am Bristol 9 25 pm to 4 45 am Penzance 9 23 pm to 5 27 am

12.29 am 2.06 pm Full moon July 20 London 9.13 pm to 5 00 am Bristol 9.23 pm to 5 10 am Edinburgh 9 51 pm to 4 47 am Manchester 9 32 pm to 4 58 am Penzance 9.28 pm to 5.28 am

HIGHEST & LOWEST



CTIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1997. Published and printed and licensed for distribution in electronic and all other derivative forms by Times Newspapers Ltd. FO BOX 405. Virginia Street, London Ei QAN telephone G171-782 SOOD and also printed at Stilling Rose, Prescot, Merseystate, L4 91N, 1997. La Committee of the Committee of the

FORECAST

General: Early mist and low cloud in eastern England should become confined to North Sea coasts, leaving most of England and Wales with reasonable spells of suitry warm sunshine. A few scattered thundery showers in afternoon. Drizzly rain likely in southwest England and southwest Wales later. Tonight, rain and showers over southwest England and Wales.

Showers and local thunderstorms over

Showers and local thunderstorms over Scotland and Northern Ireland, but some places will stay dry. The east coast of Scotland will have mist and low cloud. Tonight, showers and thunderstorms in parts of Scotland and Northern Ireland. ☐ London, SE, Cent S England, Mid-

tends, Ch'il Is: Misty start. Very warm, fairly sunny. An afternoon thunderstorm pos-slote, Light SE wind. Max 27C (81F). E Anglia, E, Cent N, NE England, Borders, F'burgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: Dul and misty at first, but warm sunshine this afternoon. Small chance of a late thunderstorm. Light to moderate SE wind. Max 23C (75F).

first; cloud and drizzly rain later. A moderate S wind. Max 23C (73F). CIN Wates, NW England, Lakes, IoM: Warm, mainly sunny, but chance of late thundery downpour. Light SE wind. Max 20C (68F).

20C (68F).

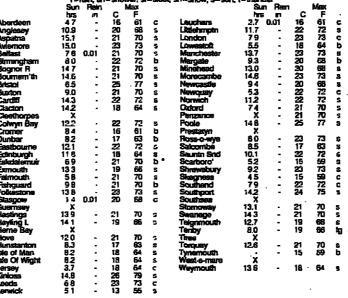
SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, N treland: Warm with surny spells. A few thunderstorms likely over hills. Light SE wind. Max 24C (75F).

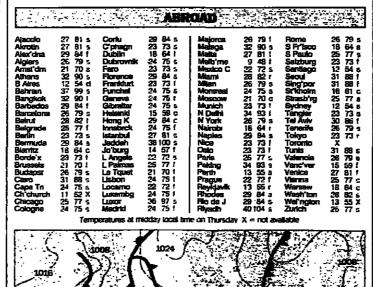
Orkney, Shetland: Cool and nisty. A moderate SE wind, Max-16C (61F).

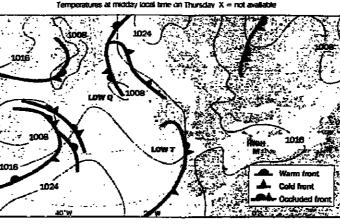
**D Outlook: Showers. NE coasts dull and

LI Pollen: moderate on Saturday, low on Sunday in central London; moderate over the weekend in NE, SE England, E Anglia, outer London, eastern Home Counties; high on Sat, moderate on Sun in S Wales, SW England, western Home Counties; moderate on Sat, high on Sun in N Scot-land; high over weekend in S Scotland; N Ireland, NW, cent S England, N Wales, Midlands (Supplied by the Pollen Research Unit)

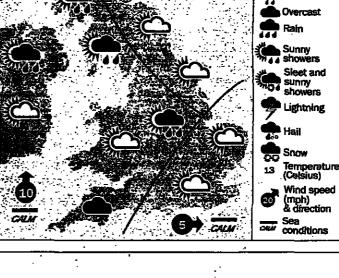
SW England, S Wales: Surmy spells at AROUND BROTAIN VESTENDAY







Changes to chart above from noon, low Q will move northeastwards and fill, Low T will mo



QE2 & RYDER CUP

Two night QE2 cruise to Spain on 22 Sept. • five nights with entry to Ryder Cup • Concorde to Heathrow £2,399

Eurostar to Paris on 27 Sept. ● two nights with city tour • Concorde supersonic to Malaga • two night QE2 cruise to Southampton • Orient-Express to Victoria £1.499

Six night QE2 cruise to New York on 24 Aug. • three nights • Concorde supersonic to Toronto • four nights • Niagara with helicopter • city tours • BA747 £2,899

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عِلَدًا صنه الأصل

Cycling stap

INSIDE **SECTION**

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday _ WORKING WEEK

Success that came out of one man's Creation **PAGE 29**



SATURDAY JULY 12 1997

BUSINESS

Graham Searjeant on the virtues of cash PAGE 31



SPORT

Question mark still hangs over Hill's future with Arrows **PAGES 44-52**

THE TIMES CITY DIARY **PAGE** 29

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

BT shares slide as City worries over MCI deal

By CARL MORTISHED AND ERIC REGULY

FEARS for the future of activities. Martin Mabbutt, British Telecom's merger with MCI can £2.4 billion from the value of BT shares

The stock market took fright after Thursday's profit warning from MCL the US longdistance operator, which highlighted BT's apparent ig-norance of the scale of MCI's problem in penetrating local telephone networks.

Sir Peter Bonfield, BT's chief executive, said that he first became awage of MCI's problems at a board meeting of the US company on Wednesday. On Thursday, MCI announced that losses from its venture into local telephone networks could reach \$800 million (£472 million), double the amount expected in the current year, and in excess of

Sir Peter said the news came as a surprise and insisted that it was premature to discuss a renegotation of last year's merger agreement. He said MCI was suffering from delaying tactics by local telephone monopolies in the US obstructing MCI's attempt to get access to local networks. They should have anticipated

it but they didn't," he said, Sir Peter said BT still believed that a strategic push into local networks was the have largely remained intact right thing to do. He said there and long distance companies into local networks was the endorsing the MCI decision to forge ahead. These include the use of different technology, sharing the risk with a third party and changing the regulatory regime. BT is supporting MCI's call for regulatory action against the anti-com-

by local monopolies. Telecoms analysts said the share price slump reflected anxieties that BT was being kept in the dark about MCI's

analyst at UBS, said: "The disturbing thing is that BT said nothing. It reflects badly on the management and the hand-in-glove alliance they claimed to have with MCI,"

MCI blamed the higher losses on the enormous resistance put up by the regional Bell companies to open up their markets to competition. MCI, whose business was previously restricted to long-distance services, has targeted the local market for its next phase of growth.

Marco Fasoli, a partner at Broadview Associates, an investment bank that specialises in the telecoms market, said: "It is easy to underestimate the cost of breaking open en-trenched monopolies."

Mr Fasoli does not think BT will abandon the purchase or attempt to renegotiate the price. "Strategically the deal still makes sense. BT is getting access to the largest telecoms market in the world. Unless they are there. BT will not be able to attract the top interna-

The 1996 Telecommunications Act in the US eliminated internal barriers allowing local and long-distance operators to compete in each other's markets. But local monopolies as AT&T. Sprint and MCI have found it almostimpossible to develop a local

MCI's top management, led by Bert Roberts, chairman, and Gerry Taylor, chief executive, will resist any effort by BT to reduce the purchase petitive obstacles being used price, partly because they stand to benefit so much if the deal goes through as agreed.

> Tempus, page 30 Market report, page 30



Sir Rocco takes a gamble on casino talks

By Dominic Walsh

RF HOTELS, Sir Rocco Forte's fledgling hotel and restaurant company, is in talks with gaming companies over the possibility of opening casinos alongside his new hotel projects.

The £15 million hotel and leisure complex that he is developing in Cardiff has planning permission for a casino; in Edinburgh, Sir Rocco is considering applying for a licence to turn a disused basement at the Balmoral Hotel into an upmarket gaming club.

Sir Rocco is already believed to have had informal discussions with Alan Goodenough, chief executive of London Clubs International. He is also likely to have targeted Capital Corporation, which London Clubs tried to buy earlier this year; its chief executive is Alan Hearn, a director of Forte before its takeover by Granada. Sir Rocco said: "There are two casino licences in Cardiff, but traditionally there have been three. The space could still be used for other leisure

about developing a wider relationship."
The 120-bedroom Cardiff hotel is part of the £2.4 billion regeneration of the city's bay area. The five-star project is xpected to be finished in June. in time for the 1998 European

purposes, but we have talked to

a number of casino operators

Summit being held in Cardiff. The Forte family is providing more than Ill million of the cost, with £3.5 million from Cardiff Bay Develpment Corporation and £300,000 from the Wales Tourist Board.

If the company decides to sign up a casino partner, the relationship could extend to future projects on the Continent. Sir Rocco is targeting Florence, Rome and Venice.





Anne Ashworth on the 21st century pension

Where to find





A seat on the board ensures rewards

INVESTMENT

Have tracker funds hit the buffers?



PROPERTY SPECIAL



A guide to renting out your home successfully

BUSINESS TODAY

4799.5 (±31.7) 3.40% FTSE 100

i-min interbank. 67±15 (67±16) 114²⁰22 (\$14²22)

New York: 1,6943* (1,6885) 1.8946 (1.8877) 2.9967 (2.9555) 10.1250 (9.9904) 2.4738 (2.4475) 192.60 (190.86) SSS DOLLAR

Tokyo close Yen 113.90 goath season

Brent 15-day (Sep) \$18.10 (\$18.05) con London close \$320.15 (\$319.45)

Jobs boost

Thousands of jobs in the British defence industry have been secured with Germany's backing of the four-nation Eurolighter programme. The fighter aircraft project will guarantee about 16,000 direct jobs at peak production and support an estimated 80,000 related jobs. Page 28

Sterling exceeds DM3 for first time since 1991

STERLING traded above DM3 yesterday for the first time since April 1991 as currency dealers bet on a further rise in interest rates.

By the official Bank of England close, the pound had edged back to DM2.9982, but was still up 4.27 pfennigs on the day. The Bank's tradeweighted index climbed from 103.8 to 105.0, its highest close since autumn 1990. The huge one-day gain fol-lows Thursday's rise in inter-

est rates and was attributed by traders to hopes of more rises in coming months. Some economists believe the Bank of England might get away with a couple more quarter-point rises by the year end; others believe that interest rates could yet hit 8 per cent in the middle of next year, compared with the present 6.75 per cent. Traders said the pound would have traded even higher yesterday but for fears of

intervention by the Bank of

England. Its hand was not

MERRYDOWN, the troubled cider and

alcopops maker, is to wield the board-

room axe as part of a £1.5 million cost-

cutting exercise. Unveiling a slump in pre-tax profits from £2.03 million to

£821,000 in the year to March 31, Richard

Purdey, chairman, would not guarantee

the jobs of any of the company's seven

Analysts, still reeling from a surprise

profits warning in May, suggested last

night that Mr Purdey, who is 55, might

take early retirement after he announces

Responsibility for the fall-off in perfor-

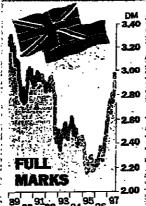
mance lies squarely with Two Dogs.

the result of the review in mid-August.

directors, including his own.

By GEORGE SIVELL detected in yesterday's dealings, although analysts pointed out that the Bank was unlikely to take the markets on in their present mood and was likely to limit intervention to

smoothing operations. Sterling's rise was exagger ated by the mark's weakness caused by doubts over European economic and monetary union. A statement from Theo



Waigel, the German Finance Minister, that put pressure on regional German govern-ments to cut spending was seen as a sign of the fudges that both France and Germany would employ to

ensure that the Maastricht

criteria were in some way met. Shares shrugged off the rising pound and the damage it is likely to inflict on exports. The FISE 100 index rose 31.7 points to close at 4799.5 taking the market within 32 points of the all-time high of 4831.7 reached on July 3, the day

after the Budget. On Wall Street the Dow Jones industrial average was up 66.72 points to 7,953.48 after wholesale prices fell for a record sixth consecutive month in June. Producer prices dropped 0.J per cent in June after a 0.3 per cent fall in May. Wall Street economists had expected a same-again figure for June. The fall persuaded analysts that the next interest rate rise in

Merrydown board in firing line

By Dominic Walsh

which until recently had helped to offset

a decline in cider sales. The 6 per cent dip

in group turnover to £34.9 million masks

a halving of sales of Two Dogs, though

Mr Purdey is hopeful that the decision to

hand distribution of the brand to Scottish

Two Dogs' original alcoholic lemon-

ade helped to spark the popularity of

alcopops, but it was quickly undermined

by the arrival of more than 90 competing

brands. "I don't think we could ever have

believed in our wildest dreams how

many new products would flow into the

As a result of the S&N agreement,

market," said Mr Purdey.

& Newcastle will turn things round.

Hambros trio not allowed to see report

By Jason Nisse

THE three corporate finance directors of Hambros who left on Thursday over the Cooperative Wholesale Society scandal have not been allowed to see the Norton Rose report into the affair commissioned by Hambros.

Nigel Pantling, head of corporate finance, and two directors, Peter Large and Andrew Salmon, left the bank after the report found that Hambros had used confidential CWS documents while attempting to put together a £1.2 billion offer for the group by Andrew Regan's Galileo Group.

The Securities and Futures Authority is now studying the report to see whether it will take disciplinary action against the three former directors.

Ronnie Fox, of Fox Williams the legal firm that advised Ron Baker, the former Barings director, on his successful appeal against an SFA rebuke. said that if the SFA took any disciplinary action against the three, the report would have to

Merrydown has cut back its distribution

function. Ten jobs have been cut from the

160-strong workforce, and the board-

room is to be "streamlined". This is

expected to result in exceptional costs of

The good news for the company was

Earnings per share fell from 10.83p to

that cider sales saw volume growth of 13

per cent, with the premium-packaged Merrydown Vintage and Pulse White

between £400,000 and £600,000.

Cider leading the way.



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whatever you save you'll earn an a attractive rate - which could be as much as 7.0% gross interest per annum. We can even pay you interest each and every month on balances of \$5,000 and over.

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3.92p. The final dividend of 1p, payable in October, makes 3.1p for the year.

THE 600,000 Woolwich savers and borrowers who opted to sell their shares immediately will gain an average windfall of £1.900.

Shares in the last of four auctions used to sell off the unwanted stock made an average price of 292p yesterday. The average from all the auctions was 296p. Woolwich shares fell 412p to 299 2 p yesterday.

Bus takeover

LONDON United Busways, the capital's last independent red bus company, is to be sold for £41.4 million to Transdev, the French state-owned transport group. United runs 580 buses on 40 routes in southwest London.

Energy sale

THE Energy Group yes-terday sold part of its recently acquired power trading business in the US. The sale to Lehman Brothers will deliver \$20-\$25 million (EILS-EI4.8 million) to The Energy Group. The sale is subject to the takeover of The Energy Group by Pacificorp.

Eurofighter decision secures jobs

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

defence industry were yesterday secured with Germany's hacking of the four-nation

Eurofighter programme. The fighter aircraft project, in which the UK has a 38 per cent stake through British Aerospace, will guarantee about 16,000 direct jobs at peak production and support an estimated 80,000 related jobs. Production may start in early 1999 and could run for about 20 years if export interest in the aircraft is strong enough.

BAe said: "We are delighted that we have got through this stage. We have always been convinced about the Euro-

fighter project."

BAe will handle final assembly of the aircraft at its plant in Warton, Lancashire, which will also deal with component manufacture along with the company's centres in Sanlesbury, Lancashire, and Brough, East York-

THOUSANDS of jobs in the at Rolls-Royce's military engine production centre in Bris-tol. Rolls has a 33 per cent

stake in a consortium to build engines for the Eurolighter. Germany's final endorsement of the £40 billion development of the Eurofighter. which involves Italy (with a 20 per cent stake) and Spain (12 per cent), means that the Royal Air Force will get new aircraft by 2001. Britain has ordered 230 Eurofighters.

Germany's budget prob-lems have cast a shadow over the Eurofighter programme which was launched in 1983. Britain has placed increasing pressure on Bonn to ensure collaboration from the project's second-biggest

partner. Germany, through Dasa, has a 30 per cent stake. Its commitment yesterday guar-antees the next stage of dev-elopment, which will lead to the signing of investment contracts when the partners start



Farmer shareholders at the Avonmore food company meeting that backed a merger with Waterford that may hit British jobs there is considerable overlap

Christie's sales reach six-year high

By Jon Ashworth

CHRISTIE'S INTERNATIONAL, the fine art auctioneer, clinched sales of £557 million in the first half of the year - the highest level for nearly six years.

It sold 75 works of art for \$1 million or

tional art market. The main Christie's salesrooms are in London, New York, Geneva and Hong Kong, and the strength of the pound is less of a concern.

The figures were swelled by the success of the John and Frances L Loeb collection, which totalled £57.3 million, the highest

to the continuing recovery of the interna- art at Christie's. Lord Hindlip, the chairman of Christie's, said underlying sales rose 7 per cent, even without the Loeb sale. He said: The strong sales growth of the first six months of 1997 reflects both the exceptional success of the Loeb collection of Impressionist pictures and the continuing widely based strength of the international art market."

Irish dairy (1) (1) (C) merger wins vote

From Eileen McCabe

in dublin JRISH farmer shareholders in the co-operative societies that hold the controlling interest in the Avonmore and Waterford food companies yesterday voted overwhelmingly for their merger to create the biggest dairy com-pany in Ireland.

The new company, Avonmore Waterford, will have annual turnover of Ir£2.5 billion (£2.2 billion). Its billion-gallon milk pool will make it the world's fourth-

largest dairy company.

The merger will result in some job losses in Ireland, but it is expected that the main impact will be in Britain, where

in the companies' operations.

Although yesterday's vote must be ratified at a further meeting later this month, it is highly unlikely that the deci-

sion will be overturned. Members of the Avonmore co-op were the most enthusiastic for the plan, with almost 96 per cent of those at yesterday's meeting voting for it. In neighbouring Waterford, it drew 83 per cent of votes. It needed the support of 75 per cent of those at the meetings.

more. Sales were up 15 per cent in sterling terms and 23 per cent in dollars, pointing shire. Jobs will also be secured for a single-owner sale of Impressionist to tool up to make the aircraft. 10p THE TIMES Don't miss the highlights and lowlights of the British Grand Prix. Only in Monday's 10p Times.

http://www.the-times.co.uk

CHANGING TIMES

BUSINESS HOUNDUP

ICI's £475m profit on Australia stake

ICI will make a profit of £475 million on the sale of its 62.4 per cent stake in ICI Australia. The price of the offering of 143 million shares is A\$12.35 (£5.46) a share, a discount of

2.76 per cent to the closing price of A\$12.70. The global bookbuilding was "significantly oversubscribed".

Underwriters' options on 12 million shares to cover overallotment, together with the 30 million-share sale to ICI Australia, should result in the divestment of the whole of ICI's stake. ICI will use funds from the disposal to help to finance its £4.9 billion purchase of Unilever's speciality chemicals businesses. The City response yesterday was lukewarm, with ICI's shares closing up 2p at 810½p.

Burton director resigns

THE Burton Group has confirmed that Stuart Rose, chief executive of Dorothy Perkins, Principles, Evans and Burton Menswear, has resigned as a director. Mr Rose, who was on a two-year contract and a 1997 salary of £280,000, is in line for a payoff of at least £560,000. The company would not say if he will work out a notice period. It said negotiations about his settlement were in progress. In 1996 he was paid E514,000; his basic salary was £248,000. Mr Rose's job disappears with the reorganisation announced this week.

Lawrence 20% ahead

LAWRENCE, the animal healthcare and pet accessories group which floated on the Alternative Investment Market two years ago, enjoyed a 20.1 per cent rise in pre-tax profits in the year to March 31, from £1.8 million to £2.2 million. Turnover was up 10.8 per cent from £13.5 million to £15 million, and earnings per share jumped 16.7 per cent from 20.36p to 23.7p. A final dividend of 6.12p (5.56p) will be paid on November 6, bringing the total dividend to 7.77p (7.06p). The group says it will continue to look for acqusitions.

Sovereign liquidation

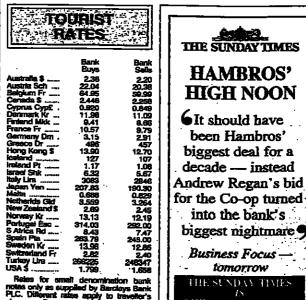
WILLIS CORROON, the insurance broker, has been forced to put its Sovereign subsidiary into liquidation after losing an arbitration battle with a reinsurer. Sovereign has effectively been closed to new business since 1992, but Willis Corroon has been forced to put up around £80 million to meet liabilities. However, losing the dispute with the reinsurer would mean that Willis Corroon could be faced with unlimited liability through Sovereign. Willis Corroon refused to give details of the arbitration.

Eagles' Sharks stake

EAGLES, owner of the Sheffield Eagles rugby league team, is paying Mushroom Records, the Australian music group, £40,000 for a 40 per cent stake in the Sheffield Sharks, the Premier league basketball team. Mushroom is retaining a 10 per cent stake in the team, while Chrysalis Group will retain its 50 per cent holding. Chrysalis and the Eagles are also pumping a total of £300,000 into the Sheffield Sharks in the form of convertible loan notes.

Prism Leisure advances

PRISM LEISURE, the cut-price computer games, music and video wholesaler, lifted profits to £2.7 million, up 28 per cent from £2.1 million, in the year to March 28. Turnover was £29.1 million, up 30 per cent from £22.3 million, and earnings per share were 20.93p, up 22 per cent from 17.12p. A final dividend of 5.46p (4.37p) will be paid on September 2, bringing the total dividend to 7.19p (5.75p). The company has sold two divisions Paul I amond Company and Wide Bird. has sold two divisions, Paul Lamond Games and Kidz Biz, back to their management for £100,000 plus some assets.



THE SUNDAY TIMES

HAMBROS' HIGH NOON

6 It should have been Hambros' biggest deal for a decade - instead Andrew Regan's bid for the Co-op turned into the bank's

Business Focus tomorrow

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HAMINE.



Rowland: pursuing Bock

Irish dain merger wins vote Road to success began with dawn of Creation Road to success began with dawn of Creation

in propelling Oasis to superstardom

ALAN McGPE could give lessons on how esday 🗸 not to run a business. Rule number one, do ednesday not become addicted to alcohol and cocaine to hursday alcohol and cocaine to combat the stress of being £1.5 million in

debt. Rule number two, do not turn down a deal on an emotional whim if it is guaranteed to make you a fortune. And rule number three, try to hire an

accountant within the first ten years.

But McGee is no Mark McCormack, who trumpeted his success in a book called What they don't teach you at Harvard Business School. McGee failed to observe any of the above rules, and still managed to become a multimillionaire and one of the most influential figures in the music industry.

McGee is the man who signed Oasis to his record company, Creation, after hearing them play four songs in a cramped club in Glasgow. Oasis have gone on to become the biggest band since the Reguler with their latest and office. the Beatles, with their latest single, D'You Know What I Mean, looking likely to be at number one in the charts tomorrow, having already outsold any other single released this year. A new Oasis album is due next month, and another Creation band, Primal Scream, is

at number four in the album charts. In this decade Creation has put 6 It was total 59 singles and about 30 self-belief. I albums into the Top 40. McGee exudes the enknew my music thusiasm of a mischievous schoolboy who has vision would just been given several

come good 9

says in his affable Glaswegian way, waving towards a plush building just off Regent's Park Road, central London, "I bought this for £730,000 last year and now it's worth well

million pounds in pocket

money. "You see this," he

Tall, with thinning ginger hair, an electric blue shirt, shiny black shoes and owlish, brown-tinted glasses, he looks like a rock not of William Hague, or Irvine Welsh, the cult novelist who also overcame years of drug abuse to make a fortune out of British popular culture. -

McGee is keen to show off his new property, which houses his independent photography company, Reaction, set up six months ago, and a luxury flat that is home to Edward Ball, one of Creation's artists. The property is in complete. contrast to Creation's dilamidated office over the road, crammed with third-hand furniture and promotional tunk.

The idea of the photography business is to build up a roster of top international rock photographers," says McGee. "We've already got control of most of the talent in Britain. I think I've got bigger ambitions than just Creation Records now. I mean it's just a job to me. After coming through the drugs thing, I realised I was emotionally stunted until the age of 33. I've grown up now and music is not my whole life."

McGee's daily routine underlines his reformed character. "I usually get up at around nine in the morning and make some personal calls to my family and my pais," he says. "Then I'll go to the gym and run for about 40 minutes, come back home, make some business calls, and make it into Creation at about midday. At night I'll either be in the studio, going to see one of my bands or having a meeting over a meal. But I also have a lot of spare time. I go to the movies, stay in, go for

meals with my girlfriend, and I watch football. I'm a big Chelsea fan."

The changed lifestyle disguises a troubled past. McGee, just 35 and the son of a former shipyard worker, left school at 16 with one O level. He drifted for eight with one O level. He drifted for eight years. "I had every job you could possibly think of, including a job at McDonald's," he recalls. "I'll tell you one thing though, doing loads of jobs is good for you, because when you do get something you enjoy and you get paid for it, you realise that wayth jurky."

McGee loved punk music and played in a number of no-hope bands in the early 1980s before deciding his ability to manage bands was greater than his ability as a musician. He set up Creation Records aged 24 when he was living on £40 a week from the enterprise allowance scheme. He borrowed £1,000 from

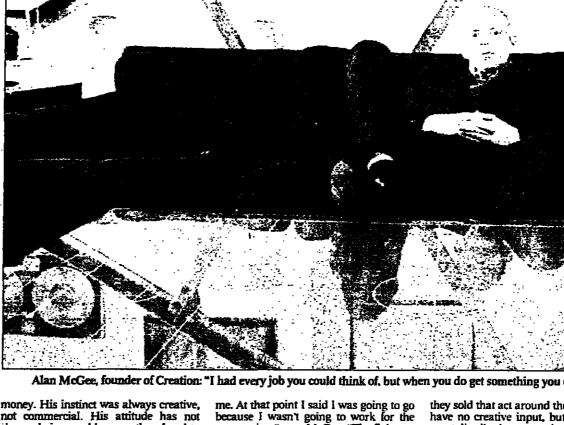
NatWest as start-up capital. "At first the label didn't make any money." McGee says. "But I also used to manage bands like the Jesus and Mary Chain and all the money I made from that I put back into the label. That's how we used to survive. It was a total act of self-belief. I knew that this musical vision I had

with all these bands would actually come good." Despite an uncanny ability to spot

talent, Creation teetered on the edge of financial collapse throughout the 1980s and early 1990s. The situation worsened when McGee turned to drugs. "I had always dabbled slightly, but I started to get heavily into Ecstasy, cocaine, amphetamines and medications like cough mixture," he says. "It was just basically because I was under so much stress and people were trying to make me bankrupt all the time. I would just go home and get drunk or get wrecked. But I never really noticed the drugs when I was running the business and I never really noticed that I had a constant hangover.

Somehow, McGee kept the business afloat, staying up all night worrying about the company's bank balance and making drug-fuelled deals. "I was really motoring, you know what I mean?" he says. "I was working on total instinct and I would always pull off the deals. I could always find the next big band. There was no real financial brains behind it all, that was never one of our fortes. It was just Alan and his mad mates."

Despite Creation's financial problems. McGee refused to sign bands he didn't partners. When Oasis started to make like, even if he thought they might make money Sony, tried to take my shares off



Alan McGee, founder of Creation: "I had every job you could think of, but when you do get something you enjoy and get paid for it. you realise you're lucky.

not commercial. His attitude has not changed since and he recently refused to sign Ocean Colour Scene, even though he knew the band was going to be a massive earner. McGee is proud of his motto: "If you don't love it, you should never do it." By 1992, having signed a number of commercial flops, Creation was folding under £1.5 million of debt, and McGee was forced to sell 49 per cent of the company to Sony for £3.5 million. He

went from having £2,000 in the bank to £2

million. McGee kept 34.5 per cent of the

company, with 14 per cent going to Dick Green, Creation's co-founder, and the rest going to McGee's father. But just as Creation's future began to look secure, McGee suffered a druginduced nervous breakdown in 1994 that put him in an addiction clinic for nine months. It was a crucial time for Creation, with Oasis just beginning to make their name. But McGee was happy to monitor

the band's progress from his room, while

the band's management took control. When McGee emerged teetotal and drugs-free, he was forced almost immediately into a war with his Japanese partners. When Oasis started to make because I wasn't going to work for the corporation," says McGee. "The light got very dirty and I eventually got my own way. They didn't need any more bad

publicity after their nday___ fight with George Michael. They didn't †uesday ∪ need the guy who had signed one of their ednesday biggest money-earners to walk out, slagging them off." But McGee put aside his differences

with Sony and renewed Creation's contract with them, on his own terms. "I don't have a problem with Sony now," he says.

they sold that act around the world. They have no creative input, but they have a great distribution network."

Now Creation has turnover of £40 million, with profits of E7 million. The company even has a chief accountant, who was hired in 1995 after its restructuring. Creation is reformed, controlled and making an enormous amount of money. McGee says the company is democratic, although he has the final say over who is signed or dropped.

'I'm more of a conceptualist than someone who phones people up arguing about a clause in a contract. I think i managed to elevate myself out of the dayto-day running of the business after about "We delivered them a superstar act and it's getting so big now that I think he records for me."

These days McGee is looking for other things. He has been approached by a number of Premiership footballers who have asked him to manage them and he is thinking seriously about it. He is also toying with buying a radio station and is in talks with XFM, which goes on air soon, having won a London FM licence.

At the same time McGee is still ambitious for Creation, and spends much time looking for new talent. "I'm not going to find another Oasis, they come along once every 30 years, but who's to say that I'm not going to find the next Elton John?" he says. "Maybe there is a little guy with a bald head and glasses 1994. That is up to Dick Green, although who is going to pop up and sell 20 million

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Tiny grudge

RELATIONS between Tiny Rowland and Dieter Bock, the German who ousted him from his pride and joy Lonrho, are, how shall we put it, not getting any better. Tiny's latest wheeze is to have Bock jailed. For contempt of court, no less. Lawyers were battling it out at the High Court yesterday, and a final hearing is on Septem-

It all goes back to the

purchase by Tiny, as part of his indefatigable campaign against Bock, of the right to sue him for an unpaid debt. Last summer he bought an action brought by Christian Norgren, the Swedish tycoon who first introduced the two. Norgren was suing Bock for £250,000 over some share transactions. Tiny continued the action until Norgren, the main witness, was extradited earlier this year to the US. The allegation from the Rowland camp was that this was in some way engineered by Bock to disrupt the court action over the debt. Hence, the claim of contempt. Bock, naturally, denies this but is away on business and uncontactable. I suppose it's too late for you two to bury the hatchet and become firm friends again? Yes, I thought it was.



 I FEAR for the health of our generously proportioned Lord Mayor of London. On Monday, in one of those daft City functions, Sir Roger Cork will receive a delegation from the Company of Water Conservators at Mansion House. This marks the 800th anniversary of the award by Richard I, on one of his rare visits to this country, of the conservancy of the River Thames to the Corp-oration of London. They will present him with a jug of water. Ed Gallagher, chief ex-ecutive of the Environment Agency, will solemnly confirm the water is from the river. Sir Robert Clarke, chairman of Thames Water, will state that it's fit to drink. And then? "It's only a ceremony," my Guildhall source tells me pityingly.
"It's tradition." Then surely
someone should drink it?

Care-worn

I HATE to be rude about a charitable event. All right, I enjoy being rude about charitable events. But the Broadgate Arena is to be avoided the week after next. Care, the estimable overseas aid charity, is holding a three-day "inflatable Gladiator competition" - apparently it is based on a popular TV programme - and is inviting City teams to take part. Prizes include a night out with Neil Morrisey and Martin Clunes. the actors in Men Behaving years. No one was saying Badly, and, even worse, a party at Bill Wyman's Sticky Fingers restaurant. This starts a three-month countdown to World Trading Day on October 30, when the actors will visit the floor of Liffe, and all those coloured jackets will donate a portion of their trading to the charity. More anon.

Old bones

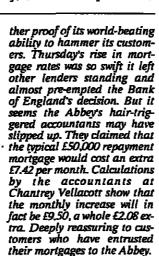
MERRILL Lynch's planned

Post Office. A couple of thousand years ago King Edward Street was already inhabited, and this could cause delays for the US bank. The area is one of only two Bronze Age settlements in London, and much prized by archaeologists. And in such situations they do tend to get in the way, insisting on removing dusty old bits of bone and so on before the JCBs can go in. "It's not a problem," says the man at Merrills. "We're not going to trample on anything." But did you know about the archaeological finds beforehand? "It's the site of some pretty important old stuff," my American friend says vaguely.

Capel exit

JOHN HENDERSON, chief executive of Capel-Cure Myers, has left the private client broker suddenly after 30 much, but it is claimed this has nothing to do with the recent failed takeover attempt by ABN Amro. Capel-Cure is now looking for another owner. The Canadian Insurance Group, a consortium of banks that took over Capel-Cure Myers when its original owner, the Central Capital Corporation of Canada, went bankrupt in 1992, must also be hoping for a speedy deal.

new headquarters north of St • THE deeply unloveable Ab-Paul's is now owned by the bey National has given fur-



White move IAN WHITE, pharmaceuticals analyst at Robert Fleming and

a big fan of British Biotech, the stock market star back in the news this week, is leaving for a specialist investment fund. White called British Bio right back in 1994. He is joining TT Investments, run by Tim Tacchi, at Fidelity before he struck out on his own in 1988. "Fund management is less bureaucratic than stockbroking," he says. "It used to be the other way around — no reflection on Flemings, though. These days most stockbrokers are owned by banks."

MARTIN WALLER



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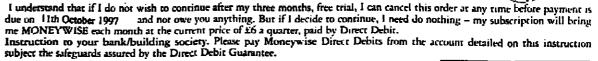
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CLARE STEWART

City puts BT on the line over its purchase of MCI

BT had its mind on trading as it saw its shares head firmly in the opposite direction to the rest of the stock market. In the wake of MCI's sur-

prise profit warning. BT shares tumbled as analysts reduced profit forecasts and questioned the price that it is paying for MCI

As 192 million BT shares changed hands, the price touched a low of 426p. By the close, the telecoms giant was nursing a 37p fall to 440½ p. a drop of about 8 per cent on the

In New York, MCI came under pressure as its share price fell 16 per cent within minutes of Nasdaq opening. London's bullish stock mar-

ket, however, resisted the impact of BT's fall and powered ahead to within a whisker of the key 4,800 level, helped by activity in the gilts and futures markets and by a shortage of

With the rise in interest rates behind them dealers were busy in the market. favouring domestic stocks over businesses with a higher exposure to soaring sterling.

A firm opening on Wall Street also helped the FTSE 100, which climbed 31.7 points to 4,799.5. However, volumes, after stripping out BT's contribution were relatively modest at about 600 million.

Among the names on the FTSE 100 leader board was GEC, which rose 175 p to 377p. The defence group was fired up by being given the green light by the Government to bid for the part of Plessey's military electronics business which it does not already own. The lifting of the earlier restrictions prompted speculation about other acquisition opportunities, while sentiment was also helped by further consideration of GEC's tie up

with Italy's Finmeccanica. Reuters recovered some of the ground lost earlier in the week, helped by demand from US buyers, and ended at 589½p, up 19½p on the day. Meanwhile, Granada Group was seen as an attractive buy opportunity, pushing shares up 48p to 780p

The cup was also running over for brewers. The combined attraction of businesses with a lesser exposure to the strong pound, together with expectation of higher spending by cash-happy consumers, cheered the sector



Peter Lawrence, head of Lawrence, saw shares leap ahead

was Whithread, the hotel and brewing group, which leapt 39p to 832p, while Scottish & Newcastle added 3212p to 730p. Greenalls Group rose 172p to 470p, with Bass up 1012p to 8282p. Cider group Merrydown was in less bubbly form after announcing a sharp fall in profits, as sales of its Two Dogs brand fell. The shares ended at 70p, down ½ p.

bankers. The group's shares moved ahead 2½p to 32½p.

Among water and electricity stocks. United Utilties was lifted 164p to 721p by positive comments about the sector from brokers. Anglian Water, which has had its acquisition of Hartlepool Water cleared by the DTL moved up to close at 7512p, up ISp. Scottish Power rose 162p to 4322p.

Shares in Cash Converters, the retailer, rose 3p to 18½p after a third of the holding of Brian Cumins, its founder, was acquired by two of the group's senior managers. The shares were encouraged by upbeat comments on trading and the prospect of increased dividend payments.

After the fourth and final auction to City institutions, it emerged that sellers of Woolwich shares will receive 296½p per share. Yesterday the shares eased to close at 2992 p. down from the opening price of 304p. Among other banks, further takeover speculation lifted NatWest

Bank 19p to 8682 p. Eurotunnel resumed trading after shareholders approved the group's structuring pla

.693%

+13%

while Scottish Hydro ended off a penny at 447 2 p. British Land's sale of a £140 million property portfolio helped the group's shares add 212p to achieve a record high

of 629p. first-half sales at Strong Christie's International, the fine art auctioneer, failed to stir buyers and the shares ended 2p lower at 2932 p.

Retailers were in the thick of the action, with further talk of

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	Current	Woek's	
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	546 .299%	+70! -68	:Strong consumer spendingVolatile early trading
	440½	-61	Shock MCI warning
	.678½ 222½	-31½	Forecast downgrade Worries over key deal

run inspired by better sales figures, with its shares adding

to 428½ p. Kingfisher, Argos, House Fraser and Oasis, the fashion retailer, were among the risers while Storehouse, the BHS to Mothercare group. was cheered 62p higher to 2112p after its recent annual

Profit-taking trimmed Dixons back 72 p to 546p after the good rises seen in the wake of its bullish trading statement. Burton ended 12p lower at 124p after news of the resigna-tion of Stuart Rose, chief executive of Burton subsidiaries, Dorothy Perkins and

Principles.

British Biotech, the pharmaceutical company, was squeezed in earlier trading in response to concerns over dealys to drug trials. More than 11 million shares changed hands and the price touched a trading low of 130p before ending at 1542 p, up 2p. Medeva eased 2p to 256p ahead of its results next week. Cantab Pharmaceuticals ended 20p lower at 8272p, while Biocompatibles fell 5212p to £12.22½p on further worry over delays signing a key deal

with Johnson & Johnson. Shield Diagnostics, the healthcare group reporting next week, was in demand, helped by an encouraging broker's note. Its shares rose

25p to 525p. AlM-quoted Lawrence, the pet care group, rose 10p to 390p after year-end results showed an increase in pre-tax profits from £1.82 million to £2.18 million. The group is paying a total dividend of

☐ GILT-EDGED: The gilts

market ended the week on a

strong note, following the equities markets. Trading picked up in the afternoon, helped by increased switching into futures contracts and the subsequent announcement of a Treasury auction. In futures. the September series of the long gilt ended up E²⁰/₃₂ at £114 ²⁷/₃₂ on volume of 90,000. In shorts, the Treasury 8 per cent 2000 closed up E⁸/32 Treasury 8 per cent 2015 ended up E²¹/32 at EIIO ¹⁶/32. □ NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street made rapid gains in morning trading underpinned by a firm bond market. The Dow Jones industrial average at midday was up

TEMPUS New York (midday): 793381 (447.05)

MAJOR INDICES.

Hong Kong:

Amsterdam:

Frankfurt DAX

Singapore:

FT 30 FTSE 100 .

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European Mining

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Benchmark Gp n/p

Dragon Oil n/p (2) Mackie Intl n/p (20)

Millwall Hidgs n/p (I) 4
Waterfall Hidgs n/p 5':

MAJOR CHANGES

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. 600p (+16p

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Royalblue Group

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Alarm bells

PANIC about the BT-MCI merger was almost palpable yesterday as arbitrageurs flailed about trying to reposition themselves in two sliding stock prices. The problem for fund managers is not the anticipated MCI losses. The US company expects to run up a deficit of some \$1.4 billion (£830 million) over the next two years as it fights tooth and nail with the Baby Bells for local telephone subscribers. These are big numbers, but nothing that BTs balance sheet could not absorb with equanimity if the outcome was a profitable local network. Even if MCI lost \$1 billion in its local business next year, that would represent only

4p on the BT share price. The nagging question is who is in the driving seat? When the deal was stitched together a year ago, this column questioned whether BT was paying an excessive entry price to join a high-risk venture aimed at breaking into local telephone monopolies in the United States. If MCI's problems were technical or market-driven BT could easily sanction a doubling of the investment, but the

buccaneering US company is facing political problems enforcing federal legislation at a local level. Meanwhile, the Baby Bells are well prepared to fight dirty to defend their patch. Clearly, this is not just a two-year or

even three-year problem.

Most worrying of all was the silence yesterday from Sir Peter Bonfield, who seemed to know little about the problems and less about the solutions. Curious, given that BT has spent years fighting off interlopers in its home market. If the company was in the dark about the potential cost of the dirty war between MCI and the Baby Bells, then its investors have been taken for a ride.

Unfortunately, there is no one pushing to renegotiate this merger. Certainly not the MCI bosses who stand to profit, nor the arbitrageurs who sought a cheap way into BT stock, nor Sir Peter who may now be feeling embarrassed. For BT shareholders, the best hope is that the US competition authorities send the merger back to the drawing board.

Merrydown

A YEAR is a long time in the drinks world. Twelve months ago. Merrydown was being praised to the skies for its canny acquisition of the rights to make and sell Two Dogs alcoholic lemonade. While its core cider market remained the popular alcopop helped the group to turn a loss of £2.7 million into a profit of £2.03 million.

This time around, the picture is rather different. Copycat products intensified competition, and Bass has flexed its marketing and distribution muscle to keep Hooper's Hooch ahead of the pack. Sainsbury, Asda and the Coop have all taken the brand off their shelves, halving its sales, and in May,

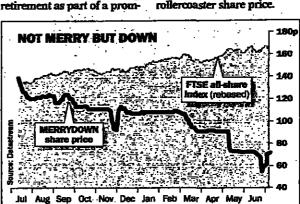
Merrydown was forced to admit defeat. A profit warning was accompanied by the

news that it was handing over the distribution of Two Dogs to Scottish &

Yesterday, those warnings were translated into profits of just £821,000 and a cut in the dividend. Many in the City would be pleased if Richard Purdey, Merrydown's chairman, took early

ised slimming down in the hoardroom Mr Purdey sees a silver lining in good sales of cider and a delay in raising duty on

alcopops, but investors will not be content after a disastrous share price performance. Merrydown is best left alone to solve its problems without the distraction of a rollercoaster share price.



Lonrho

LONRHO'S London offices are becoming a popular haunt for the visiting bosses of South African mining companies. Mzi Khumalo, of JCI, was there this week, apparently only ten days or so after his rivals from Anglovaal. While Lonrho's popularity must be vaguely encouraging for holders of its bombed out shares, it remains to be seen whether any deals will emerge from all this transcontinental shuttling.

Lonrho is supposed to be turning itself into a normal the state of its affairs remain as opaque as ever. Having rebuffed JCI's recent merger proposal, Lonrho and the South African company can-not even agree on whether or not they are still in talks. This is par for the course. Every participant in Lonrho's drama tells you something different, which means that they cannot all be trusted.

JCI insists that it is com-

mitted to Lonrho. The company talks as if it has already exercised its £327 million option over the 26.8 per cent of Lonrho held by Anglo American Corporation, which is being forced to sell by the European Commission. But this is far from a done deal. Much to JCI's chagrin, the company's enemies portray it as a puppet of respectable case. Quite apart from the three Anglo directors on Ashanti's board, its 13 per cent stake in JCI, and their shared merchant bank adviser, there is the sequence of events that enabled Mr

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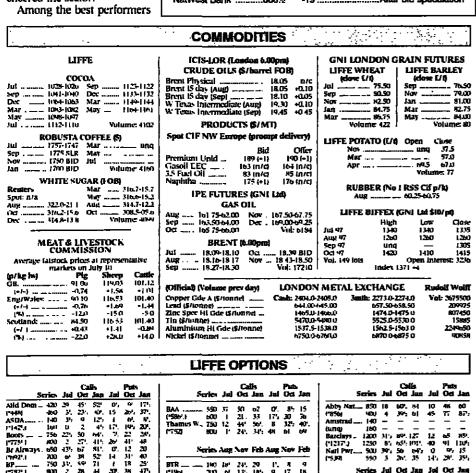
你你还是我们的我的 医克里斯氏疗法

Khumalo to buy control of JCI from Anglo. From JCI's perspective, these relationships are no more than an accident of history, and the company is extremely confident that it could easily satisfy any EU objections. One suspects that JCI's

bullish approach stems from its warm relationship with Terence Wilkinson, manag-ing director of Lonrho South Africa. Lonrho denies any boardroom split, but Sir John Craven, chairman, has appeared distinctly unenthused about a link-up with JCI.

Lonrho is unlikely to enter purchase of Anglo's stake is confirmed. But whether or not the EU accepts JCI's arguments, the clock is ticking on Lonrho's indepen-

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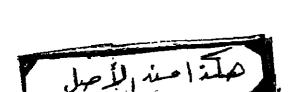
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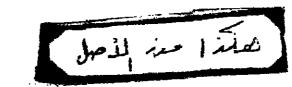
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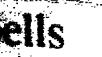
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SATURDAY JULY 12

CHANGE OF HEART 38

Three-month battle over renting out

WEEKEND MONEY

HARD LINE 39

Lender calls in debt after five years



TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



Havens for older savers lose appeal

changes. Each product has its own gilt comparator so if

the yield on gilts, not base rate Savings has a mandate to raise money for the Government - £3 billion this year -

savings accounts.

account that is paying 5.25 per cent gross on deposits of £100 or more. However, the minimum amount required to open an account is £1,000. Rates on the Portman's monthly interest account are

now 6 per cent. Savers' rates have also risen on the Chelsea Building Society's postal classic account. with rates starting at 3.25 per cent for balances of £2,500 to £4,999, rising in stages to 5.50 per cent on balances in excess of £50,000.

Karen Zagor

Tickets still left for society ball

will come to the end of this summer not a penny richer as a re-sult of the conversion of four building societies and Nor-wich Union, all is not lost.

There is still time to join the carpethaggers club, although you need to be selective. Some societies, such as the Nationwide - top tip to be taken over - have closed their doors to new members because of the

huge number of speculators. The City has put a price tag of £7 billion on Nationwide, which would give members a windfall of about \$1,500 each at takeover. Nationwide has come under pressure from carpetbaggers who are trying

to win places on the board. NPI is more difficult to price, but is the subject of constant rumour. Both the Halifax bank and AMP of Australia are thought to be interested in bidding. Though NPI is not one of the bestperforming pension providers, speculators can gain membership by investing £20 gross a month into NPI's pension, or £2,000 in its Balanced Bond. The latter allows investment of up to 60 per cent in the with-

Chartwell Investment Management, an independent financial adviser in Bath, has calculated that each member of a life company that is taken over could be entitled to between £700 and £900.

Of the large remaining building societies, Bradford & Bingley, with a potential price tag of £1.5 billion, is likely to give each qualifying member around £1,500. Analysts ieve that if the Nationwid is forced to convert as a result

Marianne Curphey explains why aspiring carpetbaggers could still be windfall winners

of the vote by members on July 24 at its annual meeting, then Bradford & Bingley and Bri-tannia will come under pressure and may merge.

That combined society would then be big enough to float on the stock market. Currently, you need £500 to open a Bradford & Bingley instant-access account and £2,000 to open a Britannia 90day notice account. Carpetbaggers should ensure they open a share account.

A domino effect could then follow. The Yorkshire, which is staunchly pro-mutual, could be forced to merge or convert, yielding £1,500 for each member. Its branch-based share account requires a minimum £2,000. Birmingham Mid-shires would yield around £1,200. Carpetbaggers need £2,500 to invest. The Portman, which requires a minimum opening balance of £1,000. could yield a windfall of £1,000.

The National Counties, which has only one branch in the country, would yield an estimated £5,000. However, it will only open new share accounts to existing members or their families, who need a minimum £3,000.

Some societies have been making efforts to deter carpetbaggers. Last month the Cov-

ing balances to £2,500. Lam-beth closed all but one account and raised the threshold to £5,000. While societies rapidly close their doors to speculators, it is still possible to buy a policy from a mutual life nsurer with a small sum. Unlike building society accounts, however, these contracts need to be kept up for at

least five to ten years. The hotly rumoured takeover target in this sector is Friends Provident, where with-profit savings plans require a minimum £35 a month and pensions £20 a month gross or a single premium of £1,000 gross. Chartwell (01225 446 556) will open accounts for an administration fee of £30 in other life insurers that are potential converters, including Britannia Life, Equitable Life, National Mutual, Royal Liver, Wesleyan, Standard Life, Scottish Provident, Scottish Life and Scottish Widows.

Patrick Connolly of Chartwell said he had been inundated with calls from life company carpetbaggers. He said: "In time, mutual insurers are likely to raise their minimum monthly premiums to

He believes that it may be several years before Standard

Life demutualises, while other insurers like Scottish Provident and Scottish Life may change status much sooner. Scottish Life has a with-

profit savings policy starting at £25 a monthy, while for pension contracts there is no minimum premium on their regular contributions and a minimum premium of E1.000

on single contributions. However, analysts believe that NPI, National Mutual and some of the Scottish mutual insurers are unlikely to convert or allow themselves to be taken over while the UK stock market is still rising. They argue that while the FTSE 100 is strong. these mutuals will have no problem paying out bonuses. It is only during a period of low or negative returns that they will feel under pressure to find

Time has almost run out for Halifax members wishing to put windfall shares into a Pep on the best possible terms (Gavin Lumsden writes). Inland Revenue rules allow free shares to be transferred into a Pep on top of the annual allowance of £9,000, provided this occurs within 42 days of the shares being issued. For Halifax members, this deadline expires tomorrow.

Halifax's administration centre at 5 Rayleigh Road, Shenfield, Brentwood, Essex, is accepting completed application forms until 11pm on Sunday. Its Pep helpline is 0345 770 066. Fidelity is keeping its Tonbridge, Kent, office open until midnight on Sunday (helpline 0800 414161). Mercury will accept applications by hand until noon today at its head office at 33 King Willian Street, London.

paying money tito your pension

WEEKEND MONEY

is edited by Anne Ashworth

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With a new base rate of 6.75 per cent, the 7 per cent offered there's a change it would and it can do this only if on National Savings pensioners' bonds has little appeal, products attract enough prompt us to change our rates. There is not much movement particularly since the over-60s A number of banks and in five-year money rates, building societies have recentwhich is why we have not must lock away their money for five years to get the full rate.

changed the rate on the pen-National Savings said: sioners' bond." At the same time, National "Our rates are determined by Cash makes a comeback

The traditional safe havens for older savers -

pensioners' bonds and

This week's quarter point on interest

rates does not seem much. But

three in short order are beginning

to add up and the markets will be

surprised if the 6.75 per cent base rate does not become 7 per cent before too

long. After losing its appeal for five years,

For savers, this has come at just the right time. Millions face a lengthy

rethink after Gordon Brown's havoc-

wreaking Budget. New investment in

personal equity plans has lost much of

its appeal for standard-rate taxpayers,

even if dividend tax relief does not end

until 1999. Remember, though, that

higher-rate taxpayers still benefit and

that corporate bond Peps do not lose

By 1999 individual savings accounts, or Isas, are promised. But that does not

make it any easier to plan long-term

savings now. The new vehicle's shape

has not yet been revealed to potential

customers or to those permitted to

market them, whoever they may be. The

The many millions whose pensions

rely on investment returns rather than

employers' promises know that those

pensions are likely to be less than

projected a month ago. How much less

will vary with age and is hard to quanti-

fy. Dividend-based actuarial sums app-

hed to final-salary schemes are only a

rough guide. The measures that threat-

en to cut real returns by half a point a

year (perhaps 12 per cent) may eventual-

ly cut income on pension annuities too.

Middle-aged savers who have wind-

details have not even been decided.

relief on interest income.

cash suddenly looks more attractive.

gilts - are looking distinctly

less attractive this week after

the third rise in base rates in three months, prompting speculation that National Savings may have to increase

ly improved rates on their

Portman Building Society

between cash and securities usually get their timing wrong. Just at the moment, however, there is much to be said for letting new savings accumulate in cash

while the Budget sinks in.
The attraction does not lie solely in the rate. Opinions on short-term interest trends are now settling down. Prices on the Liffe futures market have for months predicted a vague rising curve, perhaps reaching 7.5 per cent eventually, perhaps 8 per cent. Futures prices now present a clearer, more convincing picture. They project a modest rise to a peak of about 7.35 per cent in the next nine months, and rates staying at about 7.25 per cent for

fter the Budget, it is a fair bet that tax may permit higher dividends but net yields average only 2.8 per cent and the high pound will hit export earnings or the sterling value of foreign profits for many

PERSONAL INVESTOR GRAHAM SEARJEANT

them into their pension fund as a top-up. Young people are, in theory, hardest hit but should not rush to save more in a money-purchase fund. Pension plans are restrictive long-term commitments. Many under 30s will reckon it is not worth losing flexibility unless they can be sure that the pension regime will be

stable for decades ahead. The Chancellor says his £5 billion a year raid on dividend reliefs will not hurt people's pensions. This is infinitely more outrageous than Harold Wilson's 1967 claim that "the pound in your pocket or purse" would not be devalued like the pound against the dollar. The new Treasury team does not seem too worried about upsetting savers' plans. Limits on tax relief for contributions are on the cards: pension companies regularly offer up tax-free lump sums as a Budget sacrifice and capital gains tax is to be

restructured next year. Cash is rarely a good home for savings for long, and savers who try to switch falls might sleep sounder if they bung

and the state of t

base rates will stay at or above today's rate for a year or more. When base rates reached 6.75 per cent in 1995, they stayed for a year. Long-term interest rates were then quite a bit higher than cash. Today there is little difference. If base rates stay relatively high, the chances of a setback to UK share prices also grow markedly. Lower corporation

Bonds look a sound medium-term bet if inflation stays under control but may make little progress against rising cash interest rates. For the saver prepared to hunt for the best rates, deposits of up to a year in unconverted building societies combine common sense with the added attractions of a lottery.



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remested. The value of units and the income from them can go down

as well as up and investors may not get back the full amount invested.

Past performance is not necessarily a duade to the future. It should be noted that capital invested in a savings account remains intact

whoreas the price of units can tall as well as rise. Newton Fund

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Helen Pridham on what to look for in an annual travel policy

Hopefully travelling more than once a year

ravel policies covering 12 months are becoming more popular as many people start to take more than one holiday a year. Their cost is sometimes little more than you would pay for single-trip insurance, especially if you buy through a travel agent.

The cost difference has been accentuated since April I when travel insurance bought as part of a package holiday started incurring insurance premium tax (IPT) at 17.5 per cent, while travel insurance bought separately is only subject to IPT at 4 per cent.

Annual policies can be pur-chased at banks, post offices, building societies, travel and medical insurers, such as Bupa, Assitalia Protect, a new annual policy available from insurance brokers, has just been launched by the British Insurance and Investment Brokers' Association (BIIBA).

Comparisons between policies tend to focus on premium cost. Benefits such as medical expenses or baggage cover may be highlighted and attention drawn to whether "hazardous activities" are covered. However, other aspects of cover on annual policies need to be considered.

Trip lengths: annual policies usually cover an unlimited number of holidays but maximum trip length can vary. Usually it is 31 days but some policies allow longer. The new BIIBA policy has a 45-day maximum but WorldCover Direct covers up to 93 days.

Ski cover: if you are taking out an annual policy to cover both summer and winter holidays, check whether ski cover is included. Not all insurers

budgets may be wasted.

Thousands of holidaymakers have

1 been suffering the misery of can-

celled or delayed flights this week

during the British Airways strike. For

many, frustration will be compounded

by fears that entire summer holiday

Strike victims can take scant comfort

currently limited to free meals and

period of delay. Those prudent enough

to take out travel insurance can expect

to recoup at least some of their losses.

Most policies will pay compensation to

customers who have their holidays

shortened or cancelled by strikes, and



If your flight is cancelled, are you covered? - see below

include it on a standard policy. Among those which do are Yorkshire Bank and Halifax which both allow a skiing holiday of up to 21 days on basic annual policies. Woolwich and Barclays do not include this cover as standard. ■ Family policies: most ann-

ual policies have a family

and two or three children. Children under two or three often have free cover. Under the Post Office, General Accident and the BUBA policies. only children up to the age of to are counted. For any child of 16 or over, the full adult rate is charged — that could add

fax and Yorkshire Bank include children up to 18. Wool-wich and WorldCover Direct cover children up to 23 in fulltime study living at home.

E Separate travel: do not as-

sume a family annual travel policy covers members travelling separately as well as together. Under the Post Office policy, for example, only the policyholder is covered when away from the family. Many policies, though, allow adults to travel separately but not children. They must always be with at least one adult. Some policies cover children travelling separately - useful if your children go on holiday with other families or on exchange visits. BIIBA's policy provides this cover for children up to 16. WorldCover Direct does so for children up to 23. Bupa has two travel policies - the gold version allows for separate travel including children up to 18, but its basic policy requires the policyholder to accompany any other member of the family including the spouse. Business travel: annual policies are mainly for leisure

trips but some include business travel, including those from Yorkshire Bank and Barclays. Bupa, WorldCover Direct, and BITBA policies can be extended to include it. ■ UK holidays: cover for UK holidays is included in most annual policies. If a family member goes to hospital while away, the policy will cover the cost of transfer back to a local hospital, or if you have to cut short your holiday because of illness the balance of accomm-

£60 to £70 per child to the cost cover option for two adults of the annual policy. Some polodation costs are covered. Your rights and

cancelled flights insurers are bracing themselves for a

flood of claims. However, even for the insured, there are pitfalls to avoid. If insurance is taken out for a holiday from BA's "goodwill" package, which is which is already known to be facing other expenses incurred during the

disruption, travellers are likely to be barred from making strike-related claims. Leading companies such as Eagle Star and Commercial Union are among those who revoke cover after strike action is announced, so if you are

thinking of taking a risk on your flight escaping a strike, it may be wise to think

Most insurers pay out flight delay compensation of between £10 and £20 for every 12-hour wait. Some allow customers to abandon their holidays with a full refund after the first 12 hours of a delay, but there are exceptions and it pays to check the small print. Home & Overseas Insurance, which provides many of the policies offered by travel agents and tour operators, admits that a minority of its policies do not refund on

NATHAN YATES

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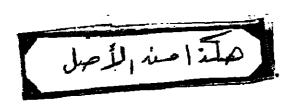
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nual travel policy elling a year

Beware insurers bearing gifts

aroline Conran's celebrated £10.5 million divorce settlement did not ment did not apparently inchude a percentage of Sir Terence's pension, probably to the relief of the already outraged restaurateur,

The ex-wives of less exalted businessmen will be hard pressed to equal her achievement. But at least those who have supported their husbands' careers, rather than pursuing their own, now have the right to claim a share of their sponses' pensions on divorce.

However, those who stay married and do not pursue paid employment are still not entitled to save for their own pensions, a considerable injustice. The Inland Revenue insists that pension contributions are made from earnings. This rule leaves many wives, mothers and those caring for the elderly without provision for their



COMMENSACION ANNE ASHWORTH Personal Finance Editor

own old age. They may not be entified to state pensions in their own right and are dependent on the provision made by their spouses. This underpensioned group of women has now become the new target market for the insurance industry, anxious to show its caring face. The insurers have proposed that those in unpaid or low-paid employment have access to low-cost pen-

insurers' contribution to the Government's plans for a citizen's pension. should arouse suspicions. Mindful of their poor reputation in government circles, the insurers wish to show that they can act responsibly with the nation's money. But those who saw how these companies treated public secure occupational schemes into poor-value personal plans, would be sions (see page 37). The move, the nervous about giving them free rein

to approach another vulnerable

At variance

THE interest rate rise will speed the rush to fixed-rate mortgages. But those impressed by advantageous rates should ask about the extras. Nationwide, for example, obliges fixed-rate customers to take its house and contents insurance. The commission funds part of the discount.

Aspiring borrowers should also inquire about the lender's variable rate, which they will pay at the end of the fixed-rate period. Moneyfacts research shows that the interest repayments on a £50,000 loan between July 1996 and June 1997 varied between £3,398 at the Yorkshire Building Society and £3,698 at Bank

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Karen Zagor has a checklist for working wives heading for court

Get aboard early just in case









The way they were from left, Sir Terence and Lady Conran, Paula Yates and Bob Geldof, the Duke and Duchess of York and the Prince and Princess of Wales

ir Terence Conran has this week once more comthis week once more com-plained of the generosity of the £10.5 million divorce settlement to his former wife which he sees as an imfortunateprecedent for future divorces. The judge held that Caroline Conran, a food writer, had played a crucial role in the success of the Conran design and restaurant empire. But Sir Terence has described the judg-ment as "Mills & Boon in style

and riddled with inaccuracies". The view of a marriage as a quasi-business partnership is not new. The royals, for example, often describe themselves as co-workers in the family firm. The success and high public profile of one parmer can help the other's drive for fame, as instanced by Paula Yates and Bob Geldof, another celebrity pairing which ended in the divorce courts last year.

Lady Contan might have spared herself a lot of worry in the run-up to the divorce if she had had the foresight to spell out her role in her husband's business from the start.

Frances Hughes, head of family law at Bates, Wells & Braithwaite, the solicitor, said: Quite often a woman's contributions get lost because they tend to play behind the scenes roles in a business, acting as hostesses, giving advice and helping to arrange loans, but not actively running it."

A bit of careful planning in the halcyon days of a relationship is a sensible precaution in case things turn sour. If, like Lady Conran, you are an invisible force in your husband's business, there are ways of making sure your contributions are reflected on divorce. "A spouse's support can make a big difference to someone running a business. If you help behind the tor. This does not demand any

scenes you should think about sharing some of the benefits, such as bonuses, as they come along," said Ms Hughes. Wives also need to take ac-

count of their more concrete contributions. If you are going to be part of the business, then make sure you go along with your husband to see bank managers and lawyers. If you have helped to negotiate the company's financing, or were part of the planning and strategy stage of setting up a business, make sure your role is documented.

"Men tend to have the knowledge base because they are the ones actively running the business. But the more you know, position will be if your marriage

goes through, there is little chance to go back

on arrangements

Once a divorce

founders," she said. One way of ensuring access to the accounts and solidifying your involvement is to join the board. You must be voted on but there is no reason for a wife not to be on the board of a company she has

helped to establish.

If you have an active role, make sure you are one of the directors when the company is established. Your specific responsibilities should be put on paper and there should be a contract of employment with a

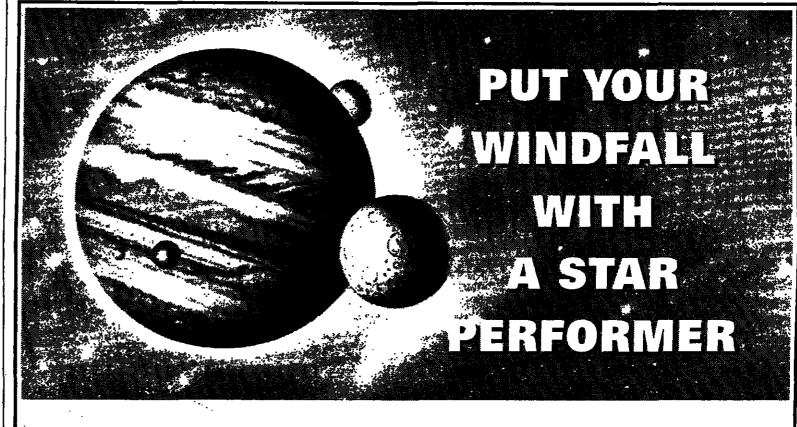
specific job description. But there is no reason to be cut out if your role is less tangible. A supportive spouse can always be a non-executive direcresponsibilities for the day-today running of a company but does carry certain responsibilities such as making sure it is being run in good faith. As a receive fees and then be part of the company pension scheme.

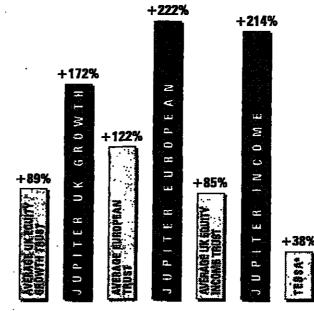
Being on the board makes it easier to keep tabs on the company's finances. If your husband has run up big debts, you will find out about them more easily if you are on the board. And if the company is not being run in the shareholders' best interests, you can always resign

The only downside is that, in law, you have a joint responsibility of running the company in a reasonable way. But if your spouse is running the company a fraudulent way it is better t know," said Ms Hughes. If your marriage breaks down, some steps should be taken regardless of joint business arrangements. Joint accounts and joint creditcard accounts should be closed to prevent your ex from going on a spending spree. If possible, loans, overdrafts and HP agreements should be separated. If the family house is not in your name, put a charge on it, registering your right to occupy. This prevents your partner from quietly remortgaging or trans-

ferring it.

With a new Government in power, last year's Family Law Act is in question. This may mean further legislation will be sought for splitting of pension funds between spouses. Ms Hughes said: "Women still need to plan for old age. And there is also the danger that splitting the pension too early could reduce the pension fund." Most important is to make sure all is in order before seeking a decree absolute. Once a divorce goes through, it is harder to go back on financial arrangements.





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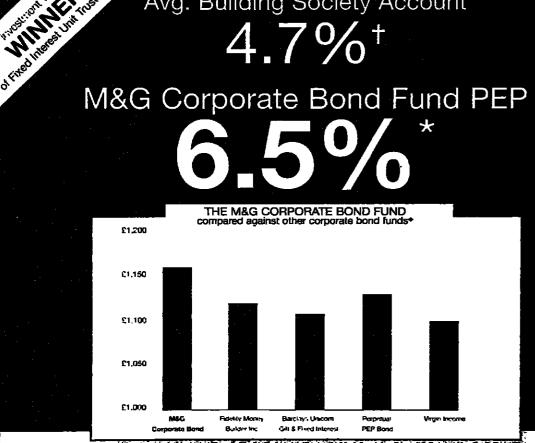
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Nathan Yates fears that many pensioners face a bleak future

Days of revolution



hareholders in highyielding investment trusts are likely to see their dividends guillotined in Gordon Brown's investment revolution. Analysts say high yielders face a bleak future after Budget measures. Many fear the Government's pursuit of "long termism" will place

income investors on the block. Investment trusts which focus on maximum dividends are some of the best options for investors not seeking growth. Many of these are pensioners relying on their holdings to live. They can obtain a flow of returns from high income trusts, which pump up to 80 per cent of their assets into companies with large dividends, or from income shares in a split-capital trust. The latter divide their shares into different types to cater for different kinds of investor. In return for relinquishing capital growth, their income shares cream off most of the trust's dividend yields.

likely to drive both dividends and the price of income shares down. "It would be difficult to imagine a worse Budget for high-yielding investment trusts," says Carolyn Coke of NatWest Securities.

Dividend tax credit: High-yielding trusts are among the

biggest victims of the abolition of dividend tax credit. Their big divid-ends were formerly att-

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ractive to tax-exempt investors such as pension funds, which could claim 20 per cent extra on each payment. With this credit gone, dividends provided by income and split-capital trusts are now far less appealing. Demand is falling, and with falling demand come falling prices. Since the cut in dividend relief was forecast by The Times in May, figures by Micropal show the price of

high-income trusts has been kept to a 0,24 per cent rise, and the income shares of splitcapital funds have dropped by 3.18 per cent. Any decrease in dividends will become apparent more slowly. Some high yielders are suffering a tax relief "double whammy" beca-

use of their income-focused portfolios. Shares in companies ing on shortloss of DTC.

Trusts are going to have to throw out some of their junky no-growth stocks, again damaging their ability to maintain income levels," Ms Coke says. A report by HSBC James Capel identifies several trusts with vulnerable holdings facing a double DTC blow, including Shires Income, Glasgow Income, Merchants, Invesco Convertible. Temple Bar. Morgan Grenfell Equity Income and Foreign & Colonial Income Growth.

■ Section 242: the abolition of Section 242 claims to the Revenue was a less conspicuous Budget move, but analysts say it will also have a damaging effect on some trusts. Formerly, Section 242 permitted investment trusts to offset their management charges as expenses against tax. The Chancellor partially closed this tax advantage, and now companies can only claim against "unfranked" income --not subjected to advance cor-

poration tax. Income funds that invest heavily in UK equities (ie. shares liable to unfranked income to set against charges. They face higher tax bills, and could be foreed to compensate by cutting dividends. Justin Harris of HSBC James Capel saysthis may be enough to tip the balance against pension funds using trusts as investment vehicles. "Pension funds were benefiting from the Section 242 tax advantage, and now that has gone it is marginal whether they will gain from investing via a trust," he says.

■ Foreign income dividends: before the Budget, companies with a large slice of foreign earnings were permitted to pay all or part of their dividends under the foreign income dividends (Fid) scheme, which exempted them from the 20 per cent advance corporation tax (ACT) charge. The Fid scheme has been closed, and ACT will now have to be paid on dividends from investment trusts with big holdings abroad. Again, the trusts most vulnerable to the effects of this change will be those which focus on income.

☐ High-income unit trusts generally yield less than their investment trust equivalents, likely to be hit by Budget asures. Foreign & Colonial High Income, Morgan Grenfell High Income and Exeter High Income are among the unit trusts which place a heavy emphasis on yield at the expense of capital growth.

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Adam Jones says the institutional rush into tracker funds should not unduly sway private investors



Are they on the wrong track?

ket in London has left a question mark hanging over tracker funds. These investment vehicles are designed to reproduce the return you would receive if you had shares in all the companies in the FTSE 100 or a similar index. The attraction is cheap-

ness compared with traditional active fund management, which can often produce poor returns in spite of the huge pay packets of the managers.

While index-tracking has led to impressive recent gains, there has been understandable anxiety over how the funds would perform in a

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fund managers have the chance of picking a stock which bucks the market trend. Tracker funds have no such recourse and most financial advisers have suggested caution. One would therefore expect take-up of trackers to be quite low in the first half of this

ear. This is not so. Sales to the public have never been so buoyant. The end of the financial year is a traditional boom period for Pep funds. In March, the amount of public money directly tied up in tracker unit trusts, the most common form of index-tracking investment, increased by nearly £170 million. April, this figure was

nearly £300 million, more than twice the figure for the previous April. The general election was a big factor. Many expected Gordon Brown to abolish Peps and were maximising holdings. Surprisingly, retail sales in May, the last month for which there is market-wide information from the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds, have not fallen off as much as may have been expected.

Tony Wood of Virgin Direct. which now has about £750 million of client money tracking the FTSE All-Share, says sales have increased substantially in June and July.

This suggests that fears of a big market collapse are less widespread than some pundits anticipated or that the marketing campaigns by companies like Virgin are working. Tony Wood prefers to think that investors are taking a longterm view.

What is more surprising is the demand from institutions such as pension funds and insurers, who include trackers in their broad portfolios alongside direct stakes in comand other financial instruments.

Institutional behaviour is seen as a guide by many cautious private investors. The anxiety you may feel when committing a few thousand pounds to a Pep fund will be nothing compared with the weight of responsibility op-

TOP TRACKERS

Fidelity Money Builder 29,35
HSBC The Footsie Fund 28,82
CU UK Index Tracking 28,61
Lloyds Bank FTSE 100 28,46
River & Mercantile Top 100 28,40
Midland FTSE 100 Index 28,38
Direct Line FTSE 100 Tracker 28,23
Sovereign FTSE 100 27,92
Legal & Gen UK Stockmarket 27,65
Bardeys Unicom FTSE 100 27,60

All funds track FTSE 100. All figures are based on bid-to-bid with £100 initial sum

portfolio.

Pension fund managers. like Tony Dye of PDFM, will sometimes take a high-profile stand on where they expect the market to be going. Mr Dye began scaling down equity holdings in favour of cash in 1995 (and has seen the markets confound his bearish prediction ever since).

Institutional buying of tracker funds has tended to reflect this caution. The net amount of institutional money going into tracker unit trusts only exceeded £30 million twice in the period from January 1996 to April 1997. On several occasions there was a net outflow of money.

However, in May 1997 more than El00 million net went tutions. Ian Chimes, managing director of Credit Suisse investment funds, says this also reflects a post-election change in thinking.

In the pre-election war of words, one of the most potent fears that the Conservative Party could arouse was that a Labour election victory would spark a market correction (the

polite term for a near-crash). Quite the opposite has happened and institutions have ditched their wait-and-see policy. They are also using trackers to get exposure to the surging performance of banks

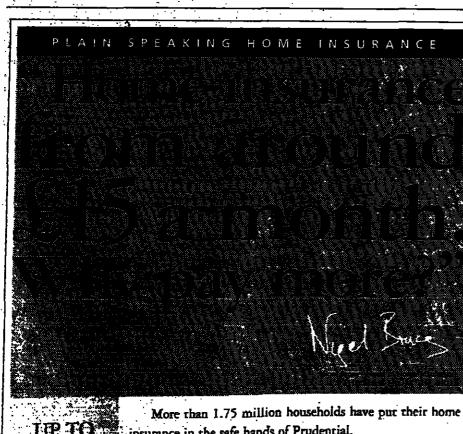
and insurers. With flotations and demutualisations, these companies are starting to dominate the FISE 100 and have driven the index's growth, which has often not filtered down to smaller

companies. Mr Chimes says buying into tracker means institutions can have exposure to the surging financial sector without becoming too vulnerable to a change in market sentiment against the shares, currently seen as expensive against their bottom-line earnings. He says: They wanted to make sure they didn't miss out on the financials party."

rivate investors should therefore not regard this institutional interest as evidence that professional their tune and are now confident that the market is bound to climb to even more dizzying

If you have just a single Pep. caution is necessary, although trackers are accepted as a backbone for a broad portfolio. Buyers should also be very careful in choosing their fund as the index tracked will vary. This can mean a big difference in performance and accounts for the absence of Virgin Direct, which follows the performance of the weaker FTSE All-Share index, from our list of top-performing unit trusts.





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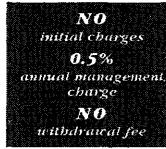
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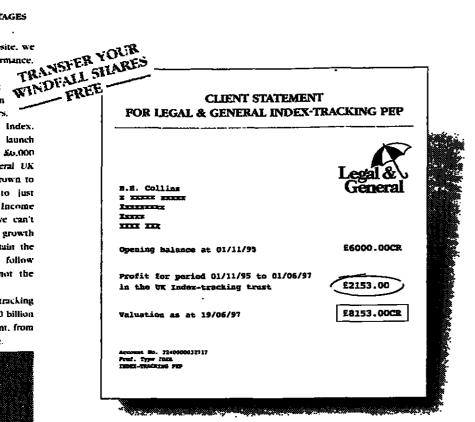


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- Mana pa Caution sets in after a salutary lesson



Stockpickers: members of the Maydown Mergers Investment Club, 16 per cent ahead after one-and-a-half years

7 eekend Money has revisited two investment clubs featured last month to see how they are getting on in the wake of the controversial Budget from Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, and Thursday's 0.25 per

cent increase in base rates. The Maydown Mergers, based in Londonderry, North-ern Ireland, have decided to rebalance their portfolio of 11 stocks to include fewer risky high-tech companies. They recently bailed out of troubled McDonnell Information Systems (MDIS), selling at 33.5p just before the shares were suspended at 23.5p on July 1. They lost £500 on their original El.200 investment.

Mike Carroll, chairman, says: "As a result of this we have started to apply stop losses on certain stocks now, so that if they fall below 15-20 per cent of the price we paid for them, we sell."

To the undoubted chagrin of private investment gurus such as Jim Slater and Bernice Cohen, the policy is not rigidly enforced. For example, the club concluded that the biotechnology sector was too volatile and sold Peptide Therapeutics, netting a E180 profit on their original £500 investment. But they cannot bear to part with Chiroscience, despite showing

Matthew Wall makes a second

visit to the two investment clubs we are monitoring

a paper loss of £250 on their E500 investment. Nigel Bevington, club secretary, says: Chiroscience is purely a spec-

hang on to see if we can get our money back."

The purchase of shares in the recently floated Woolwich and Norwich Union was inspired by a desire for more solid stocks in the portfolio and the belief that the financial sector will stay strong for the rest of the year, buoyed by interest rate rises, increased levels of consumer borrowing. and continued demand from institutional investors. The

ulative stock. We bought at the

wrong time and we want to

two in the sector. The demise of MDIS has persuaded the 19-strong club, whose members all work for a textile fibres company, to rely less on high-tech investment tips in magazines such as Techinvest, and more on their own research. They are now paying more attention to earnings per share, cashflow and whether the company has an obvious competitive advantage. Their favourite and most successful stock is Powerscreen, a local automotive engineering company. They bought it at 540p a share and it is now worth 634.5p. They know the company well and like the fact that it is showing steady growth, has little debt, and occupies a niche market. They recently invested another El,300 in the company, taking the total investment to £2,500.

verall, the recent losses on the biotech stocks and other speculative stocks such as Kenmare Resources, an Irish club also believes there is a mining company, has meant that the current portfolio, strong chance of a takeover or worth £10,300, is showing a paper loss of around £300. But there is £1,600 in the kitty and members are still around 16 per cent up on their original

> The Victoria Investment Club in Truro, Cornwall, shows no signs of adopting a more conservative approach. It wholeheartedly embraces

the "small is beautiful" philosophy when it comes to stock selection and firmly believes in taking profits.

The 20-member club relishes doing deals, perhaps rather more than prudence should allow. The portfolio of 14 stocks has dropped to £21,888 in value - it was worth over £23,000 two months ago.

Despite the club's 12-year pedigree; only one stock in the portfolio has been held for more than 18 months and six of the stocks were bought in the past four months.

Paul Hanage, club treasurer, says: "We look for small, well-managed companies with the potential for good, shortterm capital growth. We are very interested in watching the share dealings of company directors, especially if the shares are bought at market price rather than through their share options.

Winners include Waste Recycling Group, Chrysalis Group, Capita Group and Medeva. But one, Greenwich Resources, which has halved in value since they bought it in 1989, they still hang on to

Paul Hanage explains: We keep holding it in the hope that it hits the jackpot and to remind us that not every investment is a great success in the short term, medium term and even the long term!"



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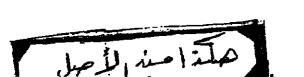
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Insurers pave way for universal pension age

pension for the 21st century based on Labour's "stakeholder" savings plan has been unveiled by insurance companies.

The proposals include the reform of the tax treatment of. pensions to enable mothers who have taken a break from work to raise children or who are caring for sick or elderly relatives at home to build up a fund. People would also be allowed to contribute to more than one scheme and those with very low or no earnings could be given incentives to

The Association of British Insurers spent six months consulting its 430 members and drew up a plan under which even the unemployed could contribute towards their own pension.

The universal second pension would supplement, and, in time, perhaps replace, the state pension scheme. It would run parallel to but not replace occupational schemes.

This would involve reform because current Inland Revenue rules stipulate that pension premiums must be paid out of earned income.

The scheme has the support of Standard Life, the biggest life insurer in Europe, which

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rules need to be reviewed. Peter Robertson, its assistant general manager of marketing, said the proposals needed to be sold on a "low margin rather than no margin" basis.

He also believes discussions are needed to clarify how the new pension will run alongside existing provision. The ABI's plan is based on the principle behind the US Individual Retirement Account, which is fully portable from job to job. The ABI

believes that employers should contribute to the personal pension plans of individual The proposals are likely to strike a chord with the Gov-erment, which is looking to develop a "citizenship pension" to allow mothers and people caring for sick or elderly relatives to build up a

A spokesman for the De-partment of Social Security and pensions minister John Denham said that the fund would be based on credits from an individual's national

insurance contributions. The simple design of the similarities with tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas) than pensions. It might offer tax relief at 50 per cent on the first £500 of contributions to encourage the low-paid to start saving. Further premiums up to a maximum of £3,000 a year would qualify for tax relief at the

individual's highest rate. The ABI envisages a product based on a simple fund tracking the performance of the FTSE All-Share index, plus exposure to index-linked gilts. People would be able to transfer to a rival provider every

Marianne Curphey on a radical plan to provide

self-financed retirement benefits for the masses

three years, without penalty. The ABI believes the policy should be unit-linked and should have an annual management charge of no more than I per cent. It recognises that some form of compulsion may be necessary.

At present insurance companies and bancassurers manage £170 billion of personal pensions on behalf of six million investors. Tessas have attracted £20 billion worth of funds and personal equity plans (Peps) have brought in

an estimated £35 billion.

stakeholder pension could initially attract an extra £5 billion to £10 billion a year. He said: This is a low-margin, highvolume product designed to appeal to the masses. It needs to be cheap, simple and transparent. The quite arbitrary limits on how much people can put into their pension each year are now inappropriate in

and employment patterns." The ABI believes that people should be allowed to contribute to a pension whatever their vearly income, so that even if they move jobs frequently, they will have some security in

It is particularly concerned that, on average, women who give up work to raise children and then return to employment never manage to achieve the same salary in real terms as they were earning when

they left. While male manual earnings in the UK peak between 40 and 49 years of age, women's average salaries peak while they are still in their twenties and before they



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Women who give up work to raise children and then return never achieve the same real salary they earned before

Annuity delay could prove costly

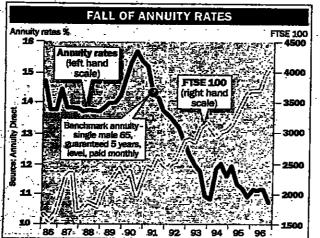
" but not yet bought an annuity with their pension fund must act now or suffer a 10 per cent drop in their pension income for the rest of their lives.

A £100,000 pension fund which would now buy an annuity paying a guaranteed income of £10,000 a year will produce only £9,000 in three months' time, according to Billy Burrows of Annuity Direct, the independent adviser.

Changes in last week's Budget, which drastically reduced the value of pension funds by removing tax breaks on equity investment, will have a knockon effect on annuity rates. Gilt yields, on which annuity rates are based, will fall as pension funds looking for alternative forms of investment push up gilt prices, says Mr Burrows. The falls will mean further

which have already been falling steadily from their high of 15.6 per cent in the third quarter of 1990 to around 10

pension rules, people have to use three quarters of their pension fund to buy an annu-ity when they retire, which



pays an income for life. Those who buy when rates are low are locked into a low income.

Recent rule changes have llowed people who retire vhen rates are low to hold off buying an annuity until they can get a better deal. While they wait they can draw ne from their pensions. They have to buy an annuity when they are 75.

But this time the same Budget changes which will hit annuity rates will also hit those drawing income from pension funds. Such funds will no longer be able to claim tax breaks, cutting investment returns by up to I per cent a year. Mr Burrows describes this as a "double whammy" for pensioners who will end up using smaller pension funds to buy worse annuities.

SARA MCCONNELL

Progress from Century Life

in more than 5,500 schemes, is close to resolution. Century. Life, the insurance company. which took over the Crown pension scheme portfolio between October 1992 and April 1993, says that it has now provided scheme trustees with igures setting out the pension benefits available in 96,6 per cent of cases. Some 49 per cent of individual members now know how much they can expect to receive and Century says that the majority of

schemes are now in surplus. Many of the pensioners were in small, final salary company schemes which had been hit by the recession and were being wound up when Century Life took over the administrative nightmare in 1992-93. In 800 cases, there were no scheme trustees; so in August 1994 Century started the legal pro-cess of applying to the High

some 7,800 members.

Century Life has made real progress in sorting out mem-bers' entitlements and this accelerated progress is expected to be acknowledged by the Pensions Ombudsman in his report due later this month. The progress was achieved by Century forming a steering committee consisting of the DTL Contracted Out Employment Group (COEG), Occupa-tional Pensions Board (OPB), Pensions Ombudsman's Office and Occupational Pensions Advisory Service (OPAS) problems encountered for the benefit of members. In the past, Dr Julian Farrand, the Ombudsman, has been criti-

cal of the Crown Life situation. The problems that faced Century in its efforts to sort out the schemes and their benefits

the Crown Life pension. Court for the appointment of lay principally in the bureau-affair, which affected an independent professional cratic muddle bequeathed by over 100,000 members trustee to 547 schemes with better at marketing pension schemes than in handling the Over the past few years essential administration.

According to Century, the paper files and computer records passed over at the takeover were in a "poor state". Investment records for the schemes were incomplete and data on scheme members did not always reconcile with information held by the OPB and COEG, the regulatory

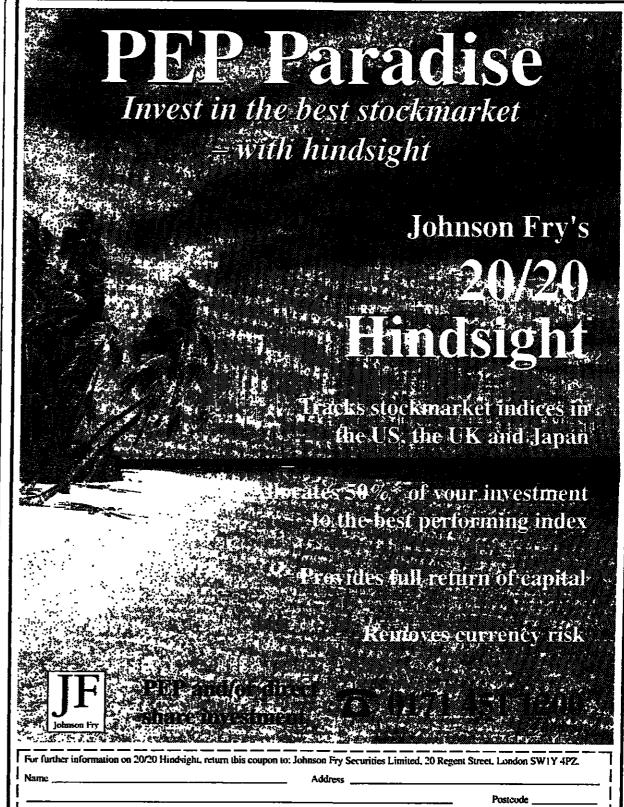
Century says that the schemes arrived with 11,500 items of outstanding post, 13 weeks' worth of mail. Information from 17 different computer systems had to be transferred on to a new single stem. A special computer link was established to COEG.

Other problems were the result of the recession having driven many companies out of business. Around 90 per cent

of the Crown Life schemes, covering 80,000 members, were in the process of being wound up when they passed into Century's control.

Many schemes did not have an effective trustee to take responsibility for communicating with members and representing their interests in the winding up. In the majority of cases, the employer had acted as sole trustee and was no longer on the scene. This left Century without the authority to settle benefits and led to the innovative court application for a corporate trustee, PAN Trustee Services Ltd, to be appointed.

Century will now apply to the new Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority to appoint independent trustees to a further 107 schemes. The winding up of the portfolio should be completed by the end of the year.



will be listed on the listed Stock Eachange. It is intended that the company will invest in fixed in the listed on the listed Stock Eachange. It is intended that the company will invest in fixed income metruagents issued by financial traditions. In order to provide prowth linked to the performance of stockbursters, it is intended that the company will enter into option transactions with a major global investment bank. The price of the shares of the company may go down as well as up. The shares should not be adverted, affected if any require the returns to investment within \$7\forall years of the date of issue of shares. No guarantee is given that investment will necesses will necesses will necesses will necesses will necesses will necesses the amount paid for the chartes. The returns to investment when any require it in the shares of the company may not be suitable for exergence and, if you have any doubts, you should seek independent financial advice. The levels and bases of tax reliefs telating to PEPs may change. The value of such reliefs depend on

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Sara McConnell explains why more homeowners are becoming landlords and how best to go about it

Renaissance in renting takes off

letting rules are tempting increasing numbers of homeowners to rent rather than sell their homes if they need to move for work or personal reasons.

The Small Landlords' Association (SLA) has seen queries from would-be landlords double as people realise they do not have to go through the expense and hassle of selling. particularly if they are moving return. If they rent, they will not only save on moving costs but they will be able to continue taking advantage of rising prices. House prices have risen by up to II per cent

on average over the past year. Changes in tenancy agreements earlier this year have also eliminated the risk of inadvertently signing over the property to a sitting tenant.

Sareth Hardwick, secretary of the SLA, says: "We have had substantial numbers of inquiries from people wishing to let for the first time."

Some may not need a property if they move jobs because there is a fied cottage which goes with the job. If the current occupant of Britain's most famous tied cottage, No IO Downing Street, had rented his Islington home rather than putting the five-bedroom house on the market last month for £615,000, he could

Cashing in your Endowment Policy?

of around £800 a week, according to Winkworth, the estate agent. The value of the house would also have continued to - not a small consideration in Islington, where prices have risen 25 per cent in the last two years.

But renting is by no means stress-iree. Bad tenants, unscrupulous letting agents and problems with lenders have all been exposed in The Times, not least in the case of Helen Kara on this page. Here are some action points:

Ask your lender. Many landlords are tempted not to ask their lender's permission before renting because it involves extra administration and expense. But technically you are breaking your mortgage agreement if you rent without permission, and the lender would have the right to

lenders revealed that charges for checking tenancy agreements and giving the go-ahead range from nothing at the Halifax to up to £102 at the Bradford & Bingley. The B&B claimed that it only rarely levied this charge in "complex cases" and that most people paid nearer the minimum charge of £35. Some lenders. Bristol & West and Britannia. charge an extra fee every time

Beale Dobie

vertising in your local paper.

Lenders have become more because the rules governing tenancy agreements have im-proved (see below). But some, including the Birmingham Midshires, Bradford & Bingley and Bristol & West, add up to I per cent to your normal mortgage rate.

■ Tell your insurers. Your insurer can refuse to pay out on a claim if you have not told the company you are renting. You may face higher premiums, particularly on contents insurance, or you may have to find another insurer altogether. If you are a leaseholder. you must tell your freeholder. otherwise you may be in breach of your lease.

■ Check your letting agreement. You used to have to make sure you did not unwittingly sign an assured tenancy agreement, which effectively landed you with a sitting tenant. But since February this year all new agreements have had to be be assured shorthold tenancies, which allow you as landlord to get your tenants out after six months.

■ Use a reputable agent. If you use an agent, check that he or she is a member of the Association of Residential Letting Agents. Members have to have been trading for two years. They also have to have professional indemnity insurance. Client money and deposits have to be kept in a separate commission of 10 per cent of your rent for introducing tenants and 15 per cent for managing property. If you are far from home this is the most sensible option.

Additional research by Penny



Bank has change of heart over tenancy refusal

A homeowner who has been battling with Lloyds Bank for nearly three months for permission to rent out her London flat finally won her fight this week, after the intervention of The Times (Sara Mc-

Connell writes).
Helen Kara, who has been unemployed for two years, applied for and got a parttime job in Staffordshire after the bank had told her she could rent out her flat in Peckham, southeast London. She could afford to take the job only if she could get rent to cover her mortgage. She made a point of checking this with the bank. "I played by the book," she said.

She found a tenant, sent Lloyds a copy of the tenancy agreement and signed off at the Department of Social Security. But just days before she was due to leave London. Lloyds told her she could not rent out her flat.

The bank argued that she was in arrears on her loan. although the same letter giving her permission to rent three months previously had also notified her of her sequently paid in full

Ms Kara now settled into a country cottage a world away from southeast London, had to move to Staffordshire as arranged, still liable

for her London mortgage.

But after being contacted by The Times. Lloyds Bank agreed to allow her to rent out her London property. reviewing the arrangement after six months. It also promised to pay compensation covering this month's mortgage payment plus a sum for distress.

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Fixed-rate mortgages still available

bbey National, Cheltenham & at John Charcol, said: "Thursday's rise Gloucester and Northern Rock does not mean the wholesale withdrawal reacted quickly to this week's rise of fixed-rate mortgages. On the contrary, does not lock in borrowers beyond the in interest rates. They all added the 0.25 per cent increase, bringing their rates to 8.2 per cent for borrowers with an average £50,000 mortgage. Other lenders, such as the Halifax, Woolwich and Nationwide Building Society, are reviewing their rates. However, the Nationwide

did cut its discounts on the variable rate. Paradoxically, the third increase imposed since the May is good news for borrowers seeking to fix their mortgage payments. The financial markets expect the Bank to raise interest rates from their new level up to 7.5 per cent this year, but believe rates will come down again in the second half of 1998 as the Bank reduces inflation. Ian Darby, marketing director

the rise does nothing to change the cost of long-term borrowing for lenders. However, it does change the sentiment of borrowers and there is likely to be more demand for these deals."

Nationwide has already proved the strength of this argument by cutting its five-year fixed mortgage to 7.59 per cent for new borrowers and 7.49 per cent for existing borrowers who are moving. However, this is still an unexceptional rate compared with other lenders. Abbey National's best rate is also 7.49 per cent and, unlike the Nationwide, it does not require borrowers to take out its buildings and contents insurance. Phillip Cartwright of London & Country Mortgages

two years and it refunds valuation and arrangement costs on completion.

If you are seeking to remortgage, Mr Cartwright says the big lenders will not give you as good a deal as they do to buyers. The best deals currently come from small building societies, such as Coventry, The Principality (in Wales) and Epsom-based National Counties. The latter has a two-year deal fixed at 7.39 per cent with a L75 per cent discount until August 1999. Compared with the average rate of 7.95 per cent, this represents a monthly saving of more than £100 for borrowers with a £60,000 mortgage.

GAVIN LUMSDEN

the states

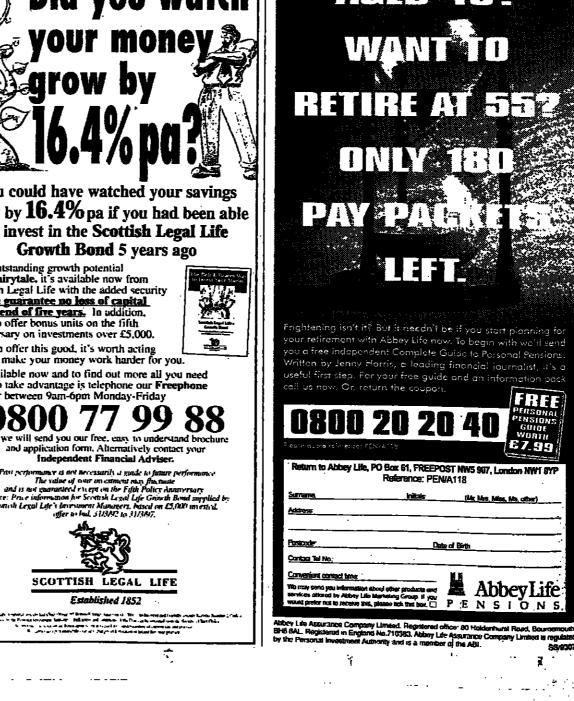


and application form. Alternatively contact your Independent Financial Adviser.

SCOTTISH LEGAL LIFE

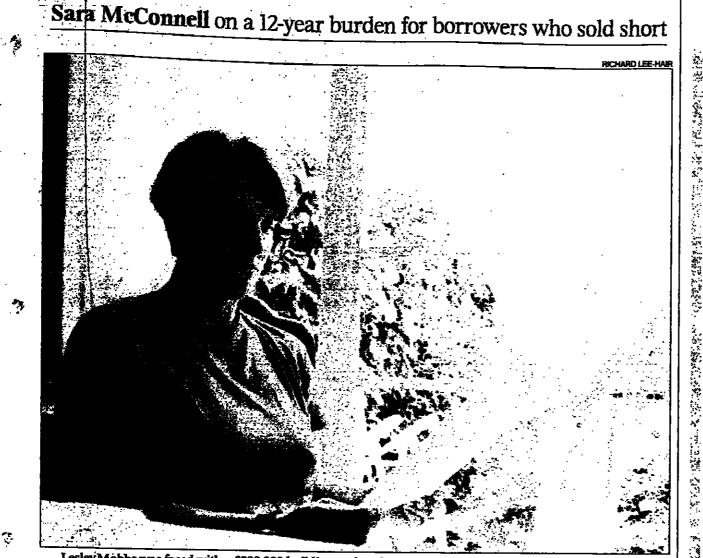
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to go about j

Bank has change of heart over tenancy refusal



Lenders' hard line on repossession debt

possessed and sold at a shortfall during the recession will not be gave warning this week.

Growing number: of borrowers are being chased only now for repayment of debts incurred in the depths of the recession. Many were inlied into a false sense of security after learing nothing for several years, and assumed that the debt had been written off.

But the Council of Mortgage Lenders says its members have up to 12 years to demand repayment and are within their improved since they were repossessed. "If a lender feels it is realisic to pursue a borrower for a shortfall hey will. If a would be reasonable to pursue them. The longer the delay in raying off the Lenders have been known to use a number of methods to update themselves

on the finances of former borrowers. including checking credit reference agency records and hiring private detectives. They deny that they chase people unless they know that they can pay.

In at least one case, however, a lender is demanding nearly £200,000 from a family living on state benefits. After a readers Phil and Lesley Mobbs, asking them to pay back the shortfall incurred after their Warwickshire home was repossessed in April 1991.

C&G repossessed and sold the Mobbses' home after they fell nine months in arrears on their mortgage. The lender refused requests from Mr and Mrs Mobbs to allow them to sell it, and put it on the market at £450,000 in July 1991. It was sold in December for £300,000, leaving a shortfall of £150,000. This has grown to

that she pay off the debt at £500 a month. When Mrs Mobbs said she was on state benefits and could not afford to pay, C&G asked her parents to put up £50,000. Shortly after The Times contacted the

C&G on Mrs Mobbs's behalf, the lender suddenly withdrew its demands but made clear that it would continue to monitor her financial situation.

Mrs Mobbs says: "This means that the C&G are going to stalk us and any time we might be able to find decent jobs or

freely admits it takes a hardline approach on arrears. "We are definitely active on arrears and try to get in before they become serious

The National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux said it was unusual for lenders to target people on benefit.

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If you're over 60 and have private medical insurance, you'll be only too aware of the recent loss in tax relief. What you might not be aware of however is that BUPA has been working on ways to minimise your loss since the beginning of the year.

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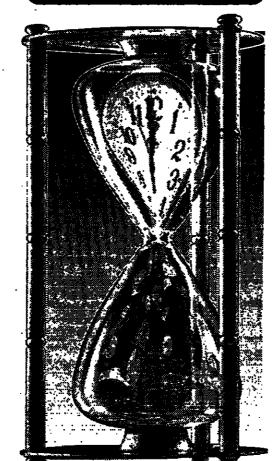
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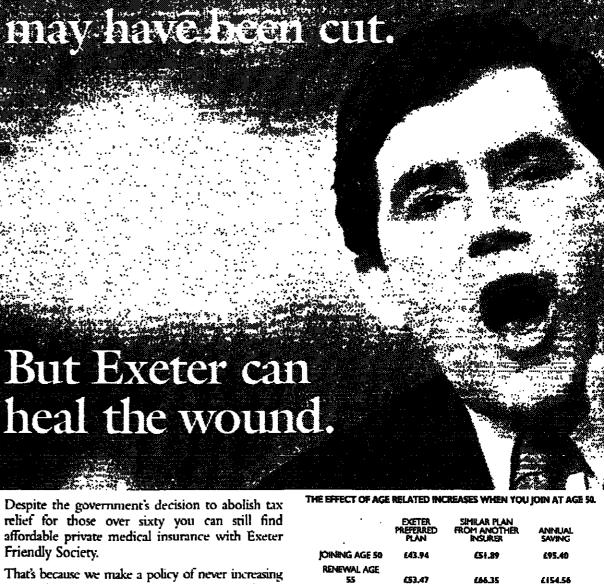
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signed to help them to understand how to manage money. Published by Bloomsbury Children's Books, Are Your Kids Cash Wise? looks at potential moneyspinners from cooking to craftwork, dog walking to paper rounds and gives children ideas on quick, safe and effective ways to generate each. The book to generate cash. The book also includes sections on fundraising and how to save and invest money. Available from bookshops priced £3.99.

LLOYDS BANK has increased its savings rates with immediate effect. The rate on its Instant Gold Savings Account has risen by 0.25 per cent to 4.50 per cent on the mini-mum balance of £2.500. Rates are tiered up to 5.30 per cent on balances of more than £50,000. Other new rates include a rise of 0.30 per cent on the Investment Account and an increase of 0.25 per cent on the 30 Day Savings Account. The interest rate on the Lloyds Bank Tessa is now 6.85 per cent.

■ HALIFAX is offering a free video entitled Buying a Used Car with Confidence as part of its car loans package. Halifax unsecured personal

hildren could benefit loans (£500 to £10,000) are from a new book deavailable only to existing signed to help them to Halifax customers. To be eligible for a copy of the video. customers must successfully apply for a Halifax personal loan to purchase a car before August 30, 1997. Call Halifax Direct on 0800 184184 or ask at your local branch.

> FROM Tuesday Abbey National will be increasing interest rates on its portfolio of savings accounts by up to 0.25 per cent. New rates on the Investor 30 account are now 3.60 per cent on balances of £1,000-plus, 3.85 per cent on £5,000-plus. 5.1 per cent on £25,000-plus and 5.5 per cent for £100,000-plus. For details of new rates on other accounts, contact your local branch.

> ■ THE Micropal Guide to Offshore Investment Funds 1997-98 is now available. The 500-page guide is packed with performance statistics, fund facts and analysis of more than 5,500 offshore funds to March 31. 1997. It includes an in-depth review with charts of 350 of the top performers in the past year. The guide costs ES5 plus postage. Telephone 014S1 66759.

> > LIZANNE ROSE

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Coventry BS 0345 665522 | Postal Plus
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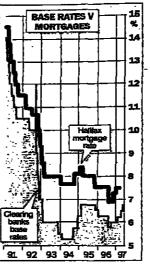
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* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: Money Facts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mongage Rates (01692 500 677)

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surce: Annuity Direct (0171 536 9393) Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

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| Bradford & Bingley | 11.625% | 141.77 | 8.200 | 100.13 | 10,000 | |
| Bradford & Bingley | 13.000% | 158.45 | 8.204 | 100.20 | 10.000 | |
| Bristol & West | 13.375% | 163.00 | 8.205 | 100.34 | 1.000 | |
| Britannia | 13.000% | 157.96 | 8.244 | 100.42 | 1.000 | |
| Coventry | 12.125% | 151.23 | 8.962 | 100.75 | 1,000 | |
| First National | 11.750% | 142.26 | B.260 | 100.25 | 10,000 | |
| Leeds & Holbeck | 13.375% | 163.79 | 8.166 | 100.23 | 1,000 | |
| Newcastie | 10.750% | 131.29 | 8.155 | 100.32 | 1,000 | |
| Newcastle | 12.625% | 154.65 | 8.164 | 100.45 | 1,000 | |
| Northern Rock | 12.625% | 154.65 | 8.164 | 100.14 | 1,000 | |
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| Building Societies
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Chelsea
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Northern Rock
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0990 133149 | Interest | Loan | Max | 6.99% dsc-6 mth |
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Scarborough | Interest
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| Building Societies
Scarborough
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Nottingham Imper.
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Staffordshire | 0.95
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£25-150k | Max
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2%-6mth,0.5%-1y
Fixed at 0.75%
to 31.1.98
6% dsc-1.9.98, |

LARGER LENDERS

| Lender | interest
rate % | Loan
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% | Notes : |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|----------|--|
| Building Societ | ties · | | | |
| Derbyshire
01332 841000 | 4.20 | to £250k | 95 | 1.15% discount
for 1 year |
| Newbury
01635 43676 | 4,35 | £15-100k | 95 | 3% discount for 1 year |
| Mansfield
01246 202055 | 1.70 | £25-250k | 90 | 6% discount-6 mti
Further dsc apply |
| Banks | | | | |
| Bnk of Ireland
01189 510100 | . 0.99 | £20-145k | 95/ | 7.05% disc 6 mths
3% disc 6 mths |
| Halifax
01422 333333 | 4.95 | no max | 95 | 3%ds-10.99,0.5%
over SVR-30.9.04 |

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| لعب و دارج | 565,30 | 996. In | - 7.40 | | Far East Opp | 221.40 | 23 |
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| Asian Pacific
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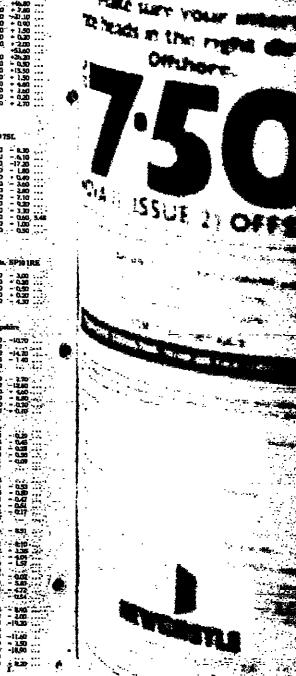
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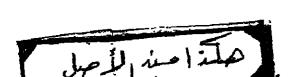
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Sir. Today many banks pay interest to

customers, some such as Sainsbury.

pay nearly 6 per cent. Well-run banks

such as Abbey National charge

minimal interest on agreed overdrafts.

Why does Lloyds refuse to treat custo-mers well, in spite of its profits? I write

on behalf of pensioners to draw atten-

tion to the large amounts Lloyds gets

by overcharging on tiny overdrafts.

1) I have a £100 overdraft facility, yet

SATURDAY JULY DIG

0500 F

Pence may not matter to you From Ms M. Mendoza Sir, I was gratified to receive my tax calculation report and to be informed that they were able to process my return "without any need for correction". As someone who last year was employed. unemployed and self-em-ployed, among other complications. I found the number of forms that had to be completed, well, taxing.

It amused me though, having painstakingly fol-lowed the directions, including the request not to use pence, to receive a rebate totalling a number of pounds and 76p.
Go on Mr/Ms Taxperson. for just another 24p you

could have a nice, near round figure in your records. Yours faithfully. MICHELLE MENDOZA. Magnolia, Dodds Lane. Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire.



Lloyds charges £8 the moment my

overdraft rises above a mere £10.

Midland does not, nor does Chelsea.

2) Statements are posted late, second

class, so that one is prevented at times

from promptly correcting an overdraft.

Yet letters imposing charges are sent

out the very same day, first class. Com-

puters can do this, yet take three days to pay cheques in. Once again, the

3) My Lloyds manager knows full well

inefficiency gains Lloyds money.

I'm still with the Woolwich — just about

From Mr N. Richardson Sir, Your article (Woolwich hiccup leaves Tessa-holders gasping. Weekend Money June 28) quoted the Woolwich as saying that they had a problem that ran into hundreds not thousands. According to their telephone query service they have a serious problem that is taking 16 days

to resolve. My wife and I both had Tessas that matured in January 1996. We went through allthe necessary hoops including the inferior rates Woolwich paid in 1996 in order to qualify

for shares in the flotation. When, at the beginning of last week, we realised that we had not received the flotation package, I started to make inquiries. My local branch took my details on Tuesday but by Saturday the only_ information they could give, or were permitted to give, was that they had passed on my query to the "conversion

office". I also called the conversion office helpline who took my details as well. Checking with them today the reply I got was that "due to the magnitude of the problem I should not expect to receive any notification for about 16 days".

convert in order to be able to gering £59 at Thomas Cook!

investment

9

develop new business opportunities. If their current performance is an indication of future trends, selling one's Woolwich shares as soon as possible might be the correct action. However, it seems that I, my wife and many others

Newport Pagnell, are not going to have that Who is indemnifying whom?

From Mr MJ. Oliver Sir, Can someone please explain the apparent nonsense on letters of indemnity for lost share certificates?

On two recent occasions. I have not received the certificate for either bonus shares or rights issue shares and on each occasion a simple letter from me indemnifying the registrar-against claims from the original turning up has to be issued without charge.

Travel insurance and the grey pilgrim

From Miss M.J.L. Jenner Sir, I read your article on travel insurance with great interest as a friend aged 74 and i, 67, are using our Times Offer Eurostar tickets for a trip to Paris and I have been asking down the high street for insurance quotes, which I believe they decided to ranged from £16.50 to a stag-

South Wirral. Other forms of insurance acknowledge that elderly people are more careful of their possessions and prudent in their behaviour than their juniors. I think a campaign on behalf of grey pilgrims is overdue! Yours faithfully.

opportunity even though the

Woolwich accepted our votes

However, on two other occa-

sions, both registrars required

a fee from me, and an addi-tional fee payable to my bank

"for joining in the indemnity".

On both these occasions the

bank required me to sign a

separate indemnity to them! Seems like a bit of a racket to

Yours faithfully.

MJ. OLIVER,

1 Well Close,

NIGEL RICHARDSON,

for the flotation.

Yours faithfully.

l Griggs Orchard.

M. JENNER. 173 Farnaby Road. Bromley, Kent.

occurs. Lloyds is prepared to waste its staff's time collecting the unjustified £8. 4) Almost every week Lloyds sends me expensive literature exhorting me to borrow. Then why treat a borrower so

5) Lloyds will lose customers when they

that my pension arrives regularly at the end of every month, nearly £700.

There is seldom an overdraft but if it

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Why does Lloyds charge so much for tiny overdrafts?

find that they can get lower charges from competitors. Once customers go,

ends. Lloyds does not deserve to keep clients unless it shows more sense.

I hope you will publish this letter, so that readers on middle incomes, or pensions will learn that they can avoid charges. May I say how much I value you financial pages, and your advice. Yours faithfully. P. BROOKS.

Todmorden,

Breach of faith over National Savings income bond returns

From Mrs P.C. Bloncourt Sir. I suggest it is very unlikely that the marketing profile of the average holder of National Savings income bonds would much resemble that of the buyer of gilts. There are many more variables to consider when buying gilts.

I always assumed that my income bond returns moved up and down with base rates and have only just realised that, as Gavin Lumsden wrote (At the mercy of an IOU, Weekend Money, June 28),

they don't. There is a breach here of faith if not of required practice. I don't remember being informed about the change to

a link with gilts.
Having awaited the Budget, I suggest there is little of comfort in it for the old and thrifty such as I, if they cannot find the time to read today's avalanche of "persuasive"

mailshots and journalism.

And nor is there much for the more important young people of today. Yours taithfully

P. BLONCOURT. 16 Marlborough Crescent.

■ Letters to the Weekend Money section are welcomed. but The Times regrets that it cannot give individual replies or advice regarding investment matters.

No legal responsibility can be accepted for the advice or statements that are given in these columns and it must be emphasised that independent professional advice should always be sought over all investment matters.

Letters to the Weekend Money section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782

THE WEEK IN MONEY

Legal & General has become the latest life insurance company to set up a telephone bank offering savings products that have high interest rates. An instant-access account with rates of up to 7 per cent will be included in the product

☐ Providers of care homes in the UK face the prospect of stricter regulation after a decision by the Office of Fair Trading to investigate the £5 billion industry. The inquiry, scheduled for publication in spring 1998, will look at contracts between elderly people and their carers in 20,000 homes and financial protection for resi-

☐ Insurers have been asked by the Human Genetics Advisory Commission (HGAC) to give details of how they use genetic test results when assessing the life expectancy of clients. The two-month consultation will invite a broad range of opinion within the industry on how tests are interpreted when customers apply for endowments.

mortgage protection poli-

cies and personal pensions.

☐ Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary, stepped up the Government's onslaught on the pensions industry on Wednesday when she attacked its 24 leading players for their "extremely disappointing" record in compensating victims of personal pensions mis-selling. She revealed that only 20,545 out of 432,393 people have accepted compensation from their pensions providers. Almost twice as many had been excluded from the review altogether.

☐ BZW defended its handling of the sale of Woolwich windfall shares on Thursday as the than 600,000 former members have watched anxiously as Woolwich's share price has slipped from a flotation high of 3682 p on Monday to 295p two days later.

☐ Economists believe that another quarter-point rise could come as early as next month, with some forecasting that rates will rise as high as 8 per cent by early next year.

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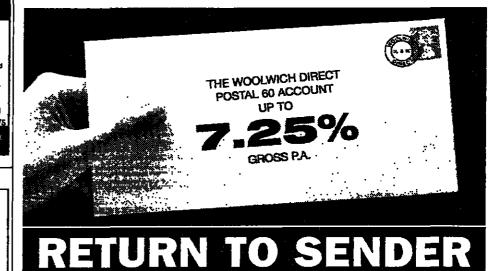
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| LS,11011-L9,999 | 5,36% |
| £10,100-£24,999 | A.15% |
| £25,000-£49,999 | 6.25% |
| £50,000 - £99,999 | 6.50% |
| £100,000+ | 6.60% |
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Rowell asks for one last stand

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT IN SYDNEY

ENGLAND will play the last international of the 1996-97 season - or is it the first international of a new season? against Australia at the Sydney Football Stadium this evening in an atmosphere that is unique. At home, political decisions have been taken which could affect the team management, and thereby team personnel, while the players find themselves the in a tri-nations' sandwich_

At the same time, this is the first of a series, for which a magnificent cut-glass trophy - the Cook Cup - has been created, which will be played home and away for the next five years. England have never before enjoyed such continuity of fixtures with a southern-hemisphere nation. albeit one whom they have never beaten on Australian soil, and there will be no absence of motivation, on either side.

Over all hangs the shadow - for Australians, that is — of the last occasion when the two countries played: two years ago in Cape Town, England dged the holders out of the World Cup when Rob Andrew dropped the latest of goals to give his team success by 25-22. though of that team, only two players remain, Mike Catt (then at full back) and Tim Rodber. It would have been three but Tony Underwood

withdrew yesterday because of a bruised hip and Nick Beai will win his second cap.

The Australians have six survivors but neither side relates back to Cape Town; so much has happened in rugby since, that two years ago almost constitutes ancient history. Both countries have modified their approach and Australia, under Greg Smith as coach, are feeling their way towards the benchmark set by New Zealand who beat them 30-13 in Christchurch last weekend. Smith, though he respects England's record, does not pretend to conceal that his principal task is the recovery of the Bledisloe Cup from the All Blacks.

England are buoyed by the belief that they are closer now to their potential 1999 World Cup squad than they have ever been, yet the scent of change hangs in the air like the gunsmoke that was left last night by the Rugby Football Union's annual meeting in London. Will the new national playing committee, which is likely to meet before the end of the month, renew Jack Rowell's contract as coach under the terms that he seeks and, if they do not. would a newcomer dispense with the services of Phil de Glanville as captain?

Rowell, rightly, believes he has achieved considerable restructuring during his 28



De Glanville, the England captain, enjoys a view of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Opera House. Photograph: David Rogers / Allsport

games at the helm and yesterday Smith, his opposite number, expressed surprise that he had not already been confirmed. "I think it's a disgrace," Smith said, suggesting that a successful coach should operate a four-year term up to and including a World Cup and then stand down. He also believes that the national coach should be home-bred. "Nationalism is a

very powerful force," he said. The coincidence of the visit to New Zealand this week by Don Rutherford, the RFU's director of rugby, has been taken by some to imply Rowell's demise, which has hardly been helpful in his preparations. Rutherford, who talks continually with influential coaches from overseas, met Graham Henry and Maurice Trapp in Auckland

but said: "Assumptions that

Henry might become the England coach are wildly off the mark. Because it is now a professional game, there may well be coaches involved with the national side in the next

Martin Johnson, the British Isles captain, may not be fit for the start of the new season after undergoing a groin operation that caused him to pull out of England's match today. Johnson has been told that the recovery time will be six weeks.

few years who are not English but imminent change is unlikely.

Were Rowell and De Glanville to come up with a win tonight, of course, their causes would not be harmed.

That also is an unlikely,

though not impossible, scenario if the 12 British Isles players involved can rediscover the aggression and unity that served them so well in South Africa, and Smith is not taking them lightly. "The England back row is a wonderful unit

and we must make sure we acquire our ball." he said. Tim Horan is confirmed in Smith's mind as the stand-off half who can take Australia forward to 1999, even though Horan established his reputation as a world-class centre.

Defeat for England will by no means be disastrous if they can demonstrate the fluidity of approach that characterised the Lions in South Africa and England in Argentina. "The main thing is that we continue to develop an English style and play with the confidence the team has shown in the past," De Glanville said.

TODAY'S TEAMS IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA

- M Burke (New South Wates) B Tune (Queensland)
- J S Little (Queensland)
- J Holbeck (ACT) J W Roff (ACT)
- T J Horan (Queensland)
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T Coker (ACT)

Referee: P D O'Brian (New Zealand) Sky Sports 2: from 10.30 * capitain REPLACEMENTS: 16 S Larkham (ACT), 17 M Hardy (ACT), 18 S Payrie (New South Wales), 19 D J Wilson (Queensland), 20 A Blades (New South Wales), 21 M Caputo (ACT).

ENGLAND

- 15 TRG Stimpson (Newcastle) 14 J Bentley (Newcastle)
- 13 PR de Glanville (Bath)* 12 N J J Greenstock (Wasps) 11 N D Beel (Northampton)
- 10 M.J. Catt (Bath) M J S Dawson (Northampton)
- G C Rowntree (Leicester) M P Regan (Bristol)
- D J Garforth (Leicester) L B N Dallaglio (Wasps) N C Redman (Bath)
- S D Shaw (Wasps) R A Hill (Seracens) TAK Rodber (North'ton/Army)
- REPLACEMENTS: 16 A S Healey (Leicester), 17 A D King (Wasps), 18 J M Sielghtholme (Bath), 19 K Yates (Bath), 20 R Cockertii (Leicester), 21

Wales give **Buckett** a second chance

IAN BUCKETT, the Swansea prop, was yesterday given the chance to resurrect his international career when he was named in the Wales side to play the American Eagles in

San Francisco tonight. The former Oxford Blue will win his second full cap — three years after playing against Tonga — because of an ankle injury to his club mate. Christian Loader. It is a twist of fortune for Buckett, who was well established as Swansea's leading loose-head prop be-fore Loader graduated to the senior ranks.

Buckett, 29, severed the hamstring in his left leg in a scrum accident in a club game against Cardiff in 1995. I couldn't run for eight

months," he said. "It has been a very frustrating few years and it has been difficult to get consistent first-team rugby since Christian got into the Welsh side. But I managed to get back into the Swansea side last season and now I intend to make the most of my second chance with Wales."

Buckett is one of three changes, all in the pack, from the Wales team that beat the United States 30-20 in the first international in Wilmington last weekend. The other two changes see Robin McBryde, the Llanelli hooker, replacing Garin Jenkins in the middle of the front row and Nathan Thomas, of Bath, coming in for Steve Williams, the Neath No 8, in the back row.

LINGFIELD PARK

2.20 Ninth Chord, 2.55 Herminius, 3.25 Ivory's Joy. 4.00 Star Talent, 4.35 Ivory Dawn, 5.05 Seattle Art.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW: 6F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.20 NATASHA GLYNNE MAIDEN STAKES (£4,503: 1m 1f) (9 runners)

MAX'S MASIC G L Moore 4-9-7 MER THYME 24 J Berry 3-8-5 .. . T E Durcan (5) 2 10-11 Etaysta, 3-1 Kinth Chord, 5-1 Labeq, 6-1 Rumuz, 25-1 Versahldy, Gillaming, 33-1 Summer Thyme, 50-1 others

2.55 E B F SURREY NOVICE STAKES

(2-Y-0: £4,854: 7f) (9) -0. 2-4, CD4-7. 71) (37)
431 OPPOSITION LEADER 18 (D.S.) 8 Hels 9-2 D. Holland 4
164 SALLET RAMBERT 15 (F) M. Heaton-Bis 8-13 R. Firench (5) 7
44 HERMARUS 16 J. Dunlop 8-12 Pat Eddery 3
MAHBOOR D. Morley 8-12 R. Hills 2
MURIMOON B. Harbury 8-12 W. Physon 1
TARASHAAN M. Preszol 8-12 D. Sanders 6
THREE ANGELS M. Tompforts 8-12 D. Beggs 9
WILDGAT & Harrom 8-12 J. Fleid 8
CERISETTE C. Britain 8-7 B. Doyle 5 6-4 Hermmus, 3-1 Opposition Leader, 7-1 Taxisham, 8-1 Wikicat, 10-1 Ballel Rambert, Matbook 12-1 Murmoon 20-1 others.

3.25 RUINART CHAMPAGNE NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-0: £5,900: 61) (10)

ODI BEN BRINES 19 (0.5) R. Interson Houghton 9-7
321 OH NEVER AGAIN 43 (D) M. Johnston 9-4
401 MASTER MAC 13 (5) R. Anchers 9-1
41 MASSIC RAMBOW 26 (5) M. Bell 9-0
623 HOH JUSTICE 18 (BF) I Badong 8-12
620 CAVERSFELD 30 R. Harmon 3-11
444 ELLEYSANTA M. A Revicionide 8-9
360 MAMORA BAY 31 IA Tomatine 8-6
5127 MORRY'S JOY 15 (0.6) G. N. Wory 9-4
614 ESLAND GR. 18 (0.6) D. Arbustont 8-4
6200 CAVERS AGAIN 18 (0.6) D. Arbustont 8-4
634 R. SLAND GR. 18 (0.6) D. Arbustont 8-4
634 R. SLAND GR. 18 (0.6) D. Arbustont 8-4 3-7 Ben Romes 7-2 Master Mac, 6-1 Mage Ratetone, 7-1 Hoh Justice, 8-1 Ch Never Again, Island Gal, 10-1 Nors s Joy, 12-1 others

4.00 DAILY MAIL CLASSIFIED SILVER TROPHY

RATED HANDICAP (£12,590: 7! 140yd) (8) 1 -210 TREGARDIN 24 (F) R Alabhard 6-9-7
2 0133 CADEALIX TRYST 24 (D.F.G) E Durlop 5-9-6
3 4530 RUSSIAM MLSIC 23 (C.F.) Gy Körkeny 4-9-1
5 -011 BRAYE RISS 21 (F.S.) L Carrant 3-8-9
6 5-30 MOOKSHRE GIRL 23 (S) M Stode 3-8-7
7 5-324 STAR TALENT 7 (D.F.G.S.) Belating 6-8-7
8 5-50 DWMA LURAL 14 (C.F.G.) J NUL 48-7 7-4 Brave Kns. 9-2 Tregaron, 5-1 Transcta, 6-1 Cadeaux Trysi, Star Taleot, 12-1 Moonshine Gel. 14-1 Russian Muser, 20-1 Donna Luna

4.35 ROTHMANS ROYALS HORTH SOUTH CHALLENGE SERIES HANDICAP (3-Y-0: £7,700: 7f) (13)

5-T-U: 7.7, TOU: 71) (13)

1 6-00 REDWING 25 (D.5) J Duntop 9-7 Pat Eddary 4
2 6203 PADDY LAD 19 F) R Guest 9-3 P Bloomfield 2
3 14-5 HARCARYAH 9 (F) D Morley 9-2 R Hats 1
4 5925 MART Y GAMER 15 (F) J Beny 8-13 T E Durcan (5) 6
5 5130 PRAEDITIS 25 (CD.6) R Hamos 8-11 J Reb 8
6 124 GE BEE DREAM 14 (CD.F) A Javis 8-11 W Ryan 9
7 12 PEPPART 17 (F) R Archurs 8-11 S Sandors 5) 7
8 2102 NORY DAWN 15 (6) K bary 8-6 G Faulton 5
8 2102 NORY DAWN 15 (6) K bary 8-6 G Faulton 5
10 0-16 EUROLINK PROFILE 22 (BF.D.F) L Carnan 6-5 R Person (5) 1
10 0-16 EUROLINK PROFILE 22 (BF.D.F) L Carnan 6-5 R Person (5) 1
11 0-13 DOPATOR 17 (D.F) M Tomporus 8-4 D Biggs 10
12 -050 LIEPLISE 75 (D.6) O French Davis 8-2 Af Fenton 13
13 000 V IP CHARLE 5 (BF) J Jerbors 7-1-2 Gee Bee Dream, 10-1
4-4 Person 5-1 Eurolink Purifie 6-1 Pathly Lad. 7-1 Gee Bee Dream, 10-1 11-4 Peppeat, 5-1 Eurolant Profile 6-1 Pacity Lad. 7-1 Gee Bre Dinam, 10-1 Redwing, Topaton, 12-1 Ivory Davin, 14-1 others

5.05 WHITES WEDDING MAIDEN STAKES

O ALCONDE 14 Lady Harries 4-9-11 G Millions (5) 7
ARCTIC TRAILEPH 133 M Bradslock 5-9-11 L. Pal Edding (7) 2
ULTRAILE SMOOTHE 563 M Pips 5-9-11 L. Pal Edding 9
BYHOOKOPSYCROOK 172J K Comerted 5-9-6 HENBURY PRINCESS A Hodges 4-9-5 A Procter 3
000 COBLE 56 B Hals 3-8-10 D Holland 6
0-0 CRYSTAL HALS 10 J Gostlen 3-8-10 A Cards 8
0-22 SEATTLE ART 19 BFJ H Cest 7-9-10 W Fiyen 1
3-22 MELODICA 29 M Shoute 3-8-5 J Reid 5 G Fauliner (5) 4

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRANSHS: J Gooden, 17 winners from 64 crimers, 26 6%, H Cecil, 9 from 37, 24.3%, L Comani, 6 from 25 24 0%, M Prescott, 25 from 106, 23.6%; Lady Henles, 11 from 48, 22.9% JOCKEYS: G Muligan, 6 symmers from 22 rides, 37.3%; Pal Eddery, 17 from 70, 24.3%, D Holland, 47 from 99, 23.7%, R Hills, 13 from 72, 18.1%, W Ryan, 31 from 181, 17.1%

Polar Prince, trained by Michael Jarvis, and the supplemented Snow Kid (David Loder) tackle the group three Prix Messidor over a mile at Deauville tomorrow. Polar Prince was third to Alhaarth in the International Stakes at the Curragh last time out. Snow Kid has won his three starts by an aggregate of 14'2 lengths.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER 6.45 Santella Boy, 7.15 Andrelot, 7.45 Pingo Hill 8.15 Iffeee, 8.45 Irie Mon. 9.15 Vision Of Freedom.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

6.45 LIME NOVICES CHASE (£3,594: 3m 110yd) (11 runners)

1-12 SANTELLA BOY 24 (8.8F.D.F.) C Marco 5-11-9 R Dam 312- CALL ME ALBI 45 (8.F.) Mrs. I Richards 6-11-7 A P B UR-3 GROME 21 (V.C.F.G.) J O'Shea 7-11-7 Michael Brenn PPU- HAZLE WAND '01 T Bin 10-11-0 Michael Brenn 43/4 HOPE THATCH 13 I Thorston Looks 9-11-0 M A Ric 25/2 J JONES THE BOY 42C (06.51) M Recon 11-11-0 M 30P- LITTLE TRICTURE 42 (D.F.) Mrs J Michaels Stormer 7-11-0 G

TO FIRE UNIONED LOW 41P (U.S.E.) N J PORDER 9-11-0 . J Califory 11 PO-U ASTROLABE 24 J Bradley 5-10-9 R Johnson 13-8 Sanetta Boy, 4-1 Caff Me Alb., 13-2 Johns The Boy, 7-1 Hope Thatch, 8-1 Grame, Rayman, 14-1 Little Tincture, 16-1 others

7.15 ASH HANDICAP CHASE (£4,198: 2m 4f 110yd) (8) 1 60-2 ANDRELOT 14 (C.D.F.G) P Bower 10-12-0 A P McCoy 2 63-5 WHO'S TO SAY 13 (F.G.S) J O'Sies 11-11-11

2 63-5 WHO'S TO SAY 13 (F.G.S) J O'Stea 11-11-11 Michael Brennan (3) 3 55-1 MAGGOTS GREEN 24 (CD.F.G.S) J Bradley 10-11-6 B Fention 4 222- MRL O'THE RAGS 50 (BF.D.F.G) Mrs D Have 8-11-5 J F Toley 5 35-P MERRY PANTO 35 (B.D.F.G) C Brook: 8-11-4 M Berry (7) 6 F15- WISE ADVICE 59 (D.F.) Mrs Marmond (7-11-1 A Maguire 7 12-1 SIGMA RUN 35 (C.F.G.) J O'Shea 8-10-11 R Johnson 8 PP-6 MORTHERN O'TRAGST 24 (C.F.G.) B Linnebys 9-10-0 8 Powell

7.45 SIDENOR (UK) HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,839: 2m 4f 110yd) (10)

(£2,839; 277 4f 110y0] (10)

1 30F- OUT RANKING 64 (D.F.G.S.) J. Neville 5-12-0 ... J. Catloty
2 53-1 MR MCRIMATIY 31 (F.S.) S. Bowling 6-11-7 ... T. Descombe (3)
3 65-0 NADJATI 24 (Y.D.F.6) D. Gardotto 8-11-2 R. Descombe (3)
4 005- KEPPANCIE 14 (16) F. Olocalega 5-10-13 A. Thomston
5 1-13 HELLO ME MAN 21 (BF,CD.F.G.S.) B. Ueweltyn 9-10-10 Mr J. L. Leweltyn
6 2-02 DESERT PORCE 14 (B,C.F.S.) G. Florin 8-10-8 ... A. P. McCoy
7 1-23 HAXXCETTS CRIOSS 13 (BF.D.F.G.) P. Eccles 9-10-7 A. Maguere
8 F5-4 PRISCH BLL 37 (D,G.S.) J. Machae 5-10-6 ... T. Dey
9 23-F. BAYERD 14 (D,S.) J. O. Sass 6-10-3 ... Michael Brennan (3)
10 12-5 ZWGBAR 24 (B,F.G.S.) Bayers 10-1 others.
3-1 Mr. Morardy 9-2 Desen Force, 6-7 Hello Me Man, 7-1 Out Ranking, Zongdox,
8-1 Hackelts, Cross, Bayers 10-1 others.

8.15 SYCAMORE NOVICES HURDLE

(£2,405: 3m 110yd) (9) 1 1-03 BILLENS BAY 14 (D.F.S.) B Lievallyn 8-11-5 . A P McCoy 2 GD-2 CROCOCAMOREL 24 k Brotynster 6-10-12 M A Rapperald 3 35-1 FFEEE 15 (D.F.G.S.) P Bowen 10-10-12 . R. Johnson 4 G2-2 F DNLY 21 R Melliochead 7-10-12 . Gary Lyons 5 3-4 NORTH BEAR 29 G McCour 5-10-12 . D Forti (3) 6 2-34 PRO701YPE 15 (8F.F.) 6 Johnson Houghton 6-10-12 A Thompson 11-4 filiene, 9-2 Bultums Bay, 5-1 Page Royale, 6-1 lf Only 13-2 Horth Bear. Exumo Kiss, 7-1 Protestype 8-1 others

8.45 BOWMER & KIRKLAND SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,085: 2m) (13)

9.15 CALVERTON PRACTICE LOOKS AFTER PEOPLE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,311 3m 110yd) (6)

1 122- SCUD MISSIE 47 (F.6) J W Payes 6-11-13 A Thorston
2 614 VISION DF FREEDOM 3 (F.6) P Bowen 9-11-6 L Communs (S)
3 S-U SOUTOM 35 (F.5) N Bobbage 11-11-6 — A P McCAP
4 FR-0 JERNYELEN 20 (F.6) P Bowen 8-11-5 — B Johnson
5 2TP. APACHEE ROWER 42 (D.E.S) N Home 7-11-1 M A Fizzperad
6 03-4 BROCKT SAPPHARE 13 (D.F.S.) P Butter 11-10-0 S Courtain

COURSE SPECIALISTS SOUTHWELL: Trainers: Mrs. D. Haise. 4 seniers: from 8 numers 50 0%, J.O.Shea, 12 from 39, 38 8%, B. Lieneshin, S. brom 20, 25 0%, T. Rumsson Jones, 4 from 21, 13 0%, G. McCord, 3 from 16, 18 6%, M. Harmannel, 4 from 24, 16 7%, Jockeys; Michael Bernian, B. systems; from 22 rides, 36 4%, A. Magunz, 17 from 49, 34 7%; Mr. J. Lieneshiy, S. from 17, 29 4%, A.P. McCoy, 17 from 39, 28 8%, R. Dunwoody, 14 from 53, 26 4%, B. Fenton, 3 from 12, 25 0%. DUMPONOPY, 14 WORD SJ. CO. 4%. B Festion, 3 from 12, 25 D%. SALISBURY: Traincers. J Gooden, 12 winners from 46 monters, 26,1%. B. J-Honghent, 4 from 22, 18,7%, E. Dusking, 3 from 17, 17,6%, B. Charlton 12 from 74, 16,2%, P. Cole., 15 from 97, 15,5%, I Baldong, 16 from 112, 14,2%, J Dusking, 16 from 113, 14,2%, Juckeys, C. Carlor, 6 from 44, 12, 25%, Dusking, 16 from 102, 13,7%, M Henry, 5 from 37, 13,5%, M J Duyer, 3 from 30, 10,0%, Only qualities.

Blinkered first time

CHESTER: 2.10 Narrogn 3.15 Ve. Ster LINGPIELD PARK; 4.00 Tsamsta. SALISBURY: 3.20 Mystery HR. 5.00 Sharp 'N Smart SOUTHWELL: 7.15 Merry Parto. 7.45 Zingbar. WARWICK; 8.00 Forzare. YORK: 4.45 Malia. 5.15 Herst Bridge

CHESTER

THUNDERER 2.10 Lord Of Love. 2.45 Rex Mundi. 3.15 Bishops Court. 3.50 Just Another Time. 4.25 Islamabad. 4.55 Mad Militant

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.25 ISLAMABAD.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW: 5F-7F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.10 broxton nursery handicap (2-Y-0: £3,761: 7l 2yd) (10 cunners)

(9) 2294 OLT LIKE MAGIC 12 (F) P Exarts 9-7 (10) 460 MARKOGIN 36 (V) M Cleamon 9-1 (8) 504 RED MAPLE 28 P ONE 9-1 (1) 5111 LORD SMITH 8 (D.F.G.S) M Pine 9-1 P F (6) 0054 LORD OF LOVE 7 T Easterty 8-11 D N

2.45 CHESTER SUMMER HANDICAP (£5,833: 2m) (11)

FFE399 (3) 93
6 (8) 1530 GREAT ORATION 25 NOD.F) F Watson, 8-9-0 J Fortune
7 (1) 3212 TRE.BY 12 (V.BF.D.F.S) 6 Relateds 4-8-13 P Roberts (5) 98
8 (11) 3106 NORTHERN MOTTO 15 (F.S.) J Eddie 4-8-8 . N Variey 95
9 (9) -303 GENERAL MOURTAR 11 (F.G. M Pop 7-8-7 Peat Edder y 10 (10) 211-80LO ELECT 376 (F.G.S) E Axion 98-7 D Scriffists (3) 88
11 (2) -040 EUPHORIC ELUSIOR 17 (0F) Mr. S Sneb 6-7-11 D Gibson 94

9-2 Ramike, 5-1 Trilby 11-2 Here Cortes Herbid, 6-1 Rev Mundi, 7-1 General Mouster, 6-1 Dancing Casalier, Bold Elect, 10-1 others. COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRABLERS: D. Loder, 4. anners, born 14. numers, 28.6%, Mrs. J. Ramsden, 5 from 18, 37.8%, M. Pape, 6 from 22, 27.3%, R. Hanson, 13. born 70, 18.6%, Cleans, 3 from 18, 16.7%; P. Cole, 8 from 10, 16.0%, OCKEYS: R. Hogdies, 3. womens from 15 fides, 30.0%, J. Egan, 4 from 22, 18.2%, Paul Eddery 9 from 50, 18.0%. Only quadders.

3.15 CITY WALL CONDITIONS STAKES

(9) 5-36 BLUE FIS 35 (BF.D.F.G) M Javis 4-8-9 ... Paul Eddery (3) 0-00 VAX STAR 28 (B.D.G) J Spearing 3-8-4 Dean McKeown

3.50 e b f maiden stakes

(4) 34 HUNTSWOOD 26 (RF) R Hannon 9-0 R 1 (5) 34 JUST ANDTHER THE 24 J Barry 9-0 P Rob. (2) 302 TAKE A TURN 8 M Chancon 9-0 J 1 (3) 06 BUARNEY PARK 23 C Dever 8-9 FARMOON PRINCESS R Hollinshead B-9 _ Paul Eddery __ TIME TO TIME T Exceedy 8-9 _____ D McKedwin __ 2-1 Huntanood, 11-4 Ast Another Time, 7-2 Take A Turn, 6-1 Time To Time, 8-1 Blamey Park, 14-1 Familion Princess

(a) 10 EECEFEE 14 (D.5) W Surey 9-1 P Fessey (3) 84
(b) 031 DEECEFEE 14 (D.5) W Surey 9-1 Part Eddary 83
(c) 21 SEAMABAD 28 (F) G Lussy 9-1 Part Eddary 83
(c) 31 JEMAY TOO 17 (D.5) B McMehann 9-1 J Fortune 82
(c) 001 MARTON MOSS 12 (S) I Easterby 9-1 D McKowen 78
(l) 05 SOMOSEPRA 95 J Barry 8-1 P Roberts (5) 89
(4) 1603 HEAVENLY ABSTONE 7 (V.8F.F.5) P Pears 8-10 J F Egan 88

(£4,250: 1m 2f 75yd) (7)

SALISBURY

THUNDERER 2.15 Royal Bounty. 2.50 Mighty Phantom. 3.20 Dulcinea. 3.55 Chris's Lad. 4.30 PARISIAN LADY (nap). 5.00 Meranti. 5.30 After The Rain.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW. 6F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.15 EBF QUEENPOT MAIDEN STAKES (Div I: 2-Y-0: £3,405: 6f 212yd) (15 runners)

7-2 Anni 4-1 Fastor AFs Folia, 7-1 Casino News Royal Boomb, 10-1 others.

2.50 FELSTEAD LIMITED STAKES

1 1360 ALARICO 17 | Williams, 4-9-8 T Sprake 1 2 4014 CHARMWOOD JACK 19 (D.F.) | Campbell 4-9-8 S (Drawes 6 3 3925 PRINCE DANZE 53 (B.F.) 10 25-res South 5-9-6 Date Of Neal 4 3203 TAWAFER 8 S Dox 4-9-6 R Perform 5 9 200 WESTERN PLAYBOY 14 R Bates 5-9-5 W Saltery 3 6 403 Mighty Phantom 30 (F) J Hills 49-3 Mighty Phantom 30 (F) J Hills 49-3 Mighty Phantom 3-1 Charmwood Jack, 4-1 Prince (Brazo, 9-2 others)

3.20 GIBBS MEW HANDICAP (3-Y-0: £4,796: 1m) (13)

4-1 fallower 6-1 Class Server Arm 7-1 Wild Say Wystery Hill, 8-1 others

3.55 CRESTED LARK AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (£2,952: 1m 4f) (15)

1 -110 ROSEG SPRAY 45 (B.C.D.F.) C Hargan 6-11-7 R Thomban 1 2 2431 SEA FREDOM 25 (V.F.S.I & calding 6-11-5 L. Lefford 10 3 0523 BPN MOMAGE 8 (F.G.) Faderg 9-11-3 A Batting 10 4 0263 STATAMACK 10 (R.D.F.G.S.) D Ebwech 9-10-13 N Moran (5) 5

(5) 5101 YA MALAK 7 (CD.F.G.S) D Michaels 6-9-8 Alex Grazeres 96 (2) 3300 BDLSH07 7 (R.D.F.G.) J Barry 5-9-2 ... Ermos O'Gorrean 91 (6) 4004 KING OF PERU 14 (F.G.S) N Literades 4-9-0 TG McLaughlin 82 D Hambes 88 (7) 0-62 STRUGGLER 7 (BF.D.F.C) D Loder 5-9-0 R Hughes

1 Struggler, 7-2 Ya Makik, Bishops Court, 7-1 Blue Irls, 8-1 Bolshoi, 10-1 King Ol nu, Teatharam, 16-1 others.

(2-Y-0: £4,224: 5f 16yd) (6)

4.25 WATERGATE STREET GALLERY CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-0: £5,170: 61 18yd) (6)

6-4 Izlamahad, 4-1 Marton Moss, 5-7 Somosteria, 11-2 Decceeban, 7-1 Jisminy Too, Hosmanly Abstone

4.55 CHESHIRE YEOMANRY HANDICAP

5 3010 NOSEY NATIVE 8 (BE.D.F.S) J. Pearce 4-10-12 Mrs. I. Pearce 14 6 2090 NEXTIA'S STAR S8 (D.F.) D Manny Sroth 4-10-12 T McCarthy 8 7 0/90 CREDIT SQUEEZ: 18 A J-Houghton 7-10-9 Micro 8: J-Honghton 9 8 0214 SUM 05 SPRINGS 8 0D; 635 D Coopsin 7-10-8 Micro 8: J-Honghton 9 0100 CHRS'S LAD 7 (B.D.D.F.G.S) B Mechan 7-10-8 Micro J Allson 15 10 2666 RABQUIS MITOTO 5 (D.F.G.S) B Mechan 6-10-8 Micro J Allson 15 10 0000 POURDIAMED 19 S.Dov. 4-10-6 Micro J Allson 15 10 0000 POURDIAMED 19 S.Dov. 4-10-6 Micro J Micro J Colf 2 4000 STOMEDUTTER 21 P Malon 49-13 Micro Special Field 13 0023 COURNAGEOUS (NOBINT 17 (P) P Hayman 6-9-9 Mrs Story 11 14 0460 ROYAL ACCLAM 120 (C.F.) S Botte 12-9-0 Micro Story 11 14 0460 ROYAL ACCLAM 120 (C.F.) S Botte 12-9-0 Micro Story 16 15 0-50 SURPHING COST 21 Pracock 7-1 Foundamed, 8-1 Pay Hortonya, Statipick, Courageous Knight, 10-1 Richng Specy, 12-1 others

4.30 MYROBELLA NOVICE AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-0: £2,847: 6f) (10)

5.00 OWEN TUDOR HANDICAP (£3,210: 61) (16)

D. UU OWEN TUROR HANDICAP (£3,210: 6) (16)

1 5020 FRIENDLY BRANE 3 (8F,D,F.S) Gay Refleway 7-9-11

2 1600 SHAND 19 SMART 42 (8,D,F.O) 8 Smart 5-9-10 M Technot 16

2 1600 SHAND 19 SMART 42 (8,D,F.O) 8 Smart 5-9-10 M Technot 10

3 4555 WHITE SETTLER 15 (F) H-Hospin 4-9-4 Metric Dwyr (5) 9

4 0224 CALIZALLO 3 (FF,S) Mey P Dutheld 4-9-7 ... 0 McGadfin (7) 4

5 -200 MR SPEAKER 28 (D,F) C Mall 4-9-6 A Metalona 12

7 0022 FHIRT 19 (D,S) 6 Sacings 4-9-6 A Metalona 12

7 0022 FHIRT 19 (D,S) 6 Sacings 4-9-6 A Metalona 12

9 0006 SUNSERIN SEDICE 7 (D,F) 1 Bedgar 5-9-5 ... P DOG (7) 15

9 0006 SUNSERIN SEDICE 7 (D,F) 1 Bedgar 5-9-5 ... Dome (7) 15

10 1053 SIZZALNG 19 (D,F) R Hospin 5-9-2 ... Dome (7) Metal 13

10 5006 FRIED CH MAYLING 26 (D,F) P Hospin 6-9-1 ... Dome (7) Metal 13

14 0002 METALOR 26 (B,F), F,G) 1 Bedgar 4-9-1 ... DSWestery (5) 3

14 0002 METALOR 26 (B,F), F,G) 1 Bedgar 4-9-1 ... T Sprake 2

15 2000 MELLORS 64 (D,G) M Heaton-Bits 4-9-0 ... G Sprake (7) Bedgar 5-9-0 ... G Carler 8

6-1 Filesdy Brave, 7-1 Fary Phoce, 8-1 Severeigns Court, Stzting, Poeler, Merant, 10-1 Caudido, Scossor Rodge, 12-1 ofters

5.30 EBF QUEENPOT MAIDEN STAKES (Div H; 2-Y-0: £3,405; 6) 212yd) (14)

YESTERDAYS BESULTS

Going: good (good to firm in places)
2.10 (5f) 1. DASHING BLUE (L Dettori,
8-1), 2. Crofters Cellisth (J Reid, 14-1), 3.
Twice As Sharp (C Lowther, 7-1) ALSO
RAN: 5-1 fav Cowded Avenue, 7 SeaDeer, That Man Again (6th), 15-2 Lady
Sharifi (4th), 8 Square Come (5th), 10
Stuffed, 12 kirs, 14 Lago Di Varano, 16
For The Present, 20 Tadeo, 33
Chemicast, 14 ran, 11, rk, 11-1, 11, 11-1, 1
Balding at Kingsclere. Tota: 86.60; 22.60,
94.20, 22.50, DF: 294.60
CSF: £115 14. Tricast: £794.69.

2.40 (1m 3i 195yd) 1. DREAM OF NURMI (R Firench, Tf-2); 2. Remead Sun (R Street, 25-1); 3. Shaft Of Light (L Detton, 4-1 (r-fav) ALSO RAN, 4-1 (r-fav)

Lornoero, 12 Esrandon Magre, Lawenus (Bih), 20 Fer Ahead, 33 Martiki 12 ren. NR Oops Pettle. 1¼I, 3½I, 1¾I, 11, 21. D Loder at Newmarket. Tote: 58.40; 52.00, 54.00, £1 60. DF. E50.40. Trio: 574.20. CSF. £135 92. Tricast £576.54.

CSF. £136 92. Tricast £576.54.
3.10 (6f) 1. BINT ALBAADIYA (J Red., 4-1). 2. Bollin Joanne (K Fallon, 7-2); 3. Compensar (D Hemison, 11-1). ALSO RAN: 11-10 law Nightbird (4th), 8 Elegant Warning (6th), 16 Wellspring, 20 China Gir (5th), 50 Oueen's Pageant, 8 ran. Nk, 4l, 2l, 14l, 4l, M Stoute at Newmarket. Tote: £4.80; £1.80, £1.20, £3.10. DF. £7.10. CSF: £18.05.
3.40 (7l 202yd) 1. JO MELL (I. Charnock, 3-1 lav); 2, Therries (A Whelan, 9-1); 3, Pride of Pendle (K Fallon, 9-1). ALSO RAN: 6 Duraid, Mērriz, 10 Casimere Lady, Pomora (5th), Sandmoor Chambray (6th), 16 Band On The Run (4th), Moving Arrow, 20 Artenasoss, tamus, 33 Traillotaster, Zorba. 14 ran. 14l, 2l, 114, 114, 11 T Easterby at Malton. Tote, £4.20; £2.30, £2.50, £2.00. DF: £24.70. Tric: £33.90. CSF: £28 IZ. Tricast: £209.55.
4.10 (7l 202yd) 1, ALL-ROYAL (K Fallon,

E33.90. CSF: E28 12. Tricast: E209.55.
4.10 (7) 202yd) 1, ALI-ROYAL (K Fellon, 4): 2. Weet-A-Mirrude (T Quirm, 50-1); 3, Restructure (Par Eddary, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 47 tax Kaha (4th), 33 General Song (5th), Kale Sumse (6th). 6 ran. 2½, 2, 2, 23, 14 H Cectl at Newmarket. Tote: E2.70; C1.50, 64.20 DF: £33.70. CSF: £73.62.

CSF: E73.62
4.40 (6f 214yd) 1, SHARP PLAY (D McKeown, 16-1), 2, Mowbray (T Quirn, 13-2), 3, Success And Glory ft Fellon, 11-4). ALSO RAN: 7-4 fav Rabah, 3 Muratazz, 9 Pay On Red (5lh), 14 Milmah (4th), Red Cascarde, 20 Captain McCloy (6th), 33 Lambrini Lad 10 ran. 354, 154, 5th bd. 45.5 M Johnston at Middlehem. Tote: £28 80; £3.40, £2.70, £1.40, DF: £20 00 Trio: £147.40 CSF: £124 91. Jackpot: Not won (pool of £32,454.35 carried forward to York today). Placepot: \$287.40. Quedpot: £14.70.

Lingfield Park

Coing: good to firm (purit); standard (AW)
2:30 (5) 1. IMTAASH (M Dwyer, 5-1); 2.
Anseitman (T E Durcan, 9-4 fav); 3.
Mister Raider (A Daly, 16-1). ALSO RAN
3 Just Loui (Shi), 4 Lucky Dip (4th), 16
Last Chance. 33 Green Golightly, 50
Durable George (5th), 8 ran. M, 13(, 13),
13i, 41 D Haydin Jones at Portypridd.
Tote: £6 90; £1 40; £1.40; £3.40 DF.
£9:20. CSF: £13.72
3.00 (6f) 1. ACID TEST (Martin Duncat) SB.20. CSF: £13.72

3.00 (61) 1. ACID TEST (Martin Dwyer, 3-1); 2, Little Turnisler (N Day, 11-1); 3, The imposter (S Whitworth, 10-1). ALSO RAN. 5-2 fev Tender Dolf (4th), 4 Harmage, 6 Californ (5th), 12 Sweet Senoritis, 14 Inner Key (6th), 20 Globel Risk, Wideweldusrytsied, 10 ram NR; Just A Stroll, Teepee Hd, 214. nk, 141, 51 W Murr at Lembourn. Tote: £3.60, £1.50, £3.00, £2.20. DF: £96.80. Tricx £100.30. CSF £37.18

E37 18

3.30 (6f) 1, OUT LINE (N Variey, 8-1); 2, Senonta Malilda (Tane O'Nolf, 12-1); 3, Davis Rock (Martin Dwyer, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 5-1 fav Praraori; 3/0y (5dh), 11-2 Tachycarda (4th), 6 Curzon Street, 13-2 Midnight Shift, 9 College Night (8th), 12 Fongotten Times, 14 Bevelad Crystal, Silver Pursa, 20 May Queen Megan, Pometa, 13 fan NR. Always Graca, Polgwynns. 13i, hd, 11, nk, 3i M Madgwick at Demmed Tote: £1120; 23 70, 26.80, 12.50 DF; £148.0, Tirc: £150.05. Tricast, £679.92, 4,00 (7) 140vd. 1 BRII HANT Dem (r.c.)

4.00 (7 140yd) 1, BRILLIANT RED (G Duffield, 7-4 fav), 2, Mawingo (R Hughes, 3-1), 3, Rakts (Dane O'Neil, 11-2). ALSO RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Ayr (fust race, 2.15), Folkestone (2.00), Windsor (Sky, 6.30), Wolverhampton (Sky, 6.45) TUESDAY: Beverley (2.00), Brighton (2.16). WEDNESDAY: Catterick (2 15). Sandown Park (C4, 2.05), Yamnouth (1 50), Brighton (Ssy, 8.20), Doncaster (Sioy, 6.30), Worces-ter i6 10) THURSDAY: Bath (2.00), Leicester (2.15).

FRIDAY: Museelburgh (2.40). Newbury (2.30). Southeel (2.34), Newmarkst Sky, 6.30). Porsetract (Sky, 6.45). Sellebury (6.20) (8.30) New-SATURDAY: Newbury (BBC, 1.30), New-market (C4, 2.10), Nettingham (2.20), Ripon (2.35), Ayr (Sky, 6.55), Redear (Sky, 6.45), Warwick (8.35)

Flat meetings in bold

RAN: 7 Albert The Beer (4th), 15-2 Chin: Red (5th), 14 Henry The Fitth (6th), 6 ran Shd, 21, hd, kl, dist. P Hedger a Chichester, Tote: £2.30; £1.60, £1.50. DF £6,00, CSF: £5.88. 26.00, CSF: 25.88.
4.30 (1m Si 105yd 1, KROSNO (R Havin. 8-1): 2, Bewitching Lady (Mertin Dwyer. 20-1): 3, Swing West (C Rutier. 7-1). ALSO RAN: 3-1 tav Zomo, 11-2 Farley Mount, 13-2 Cardouche, 8 Mardrew (6th), Selfimberico, 12 Ludo, 14 Rare Telent (5th), 16 Peri Friend (4th), 33 Frost King. Sylvan Jubilacion. 13 ren. 33-j. kl, 3, 7, 3t. S Williams at Newmerket. Tota: 29.70: 2200: 25.20, 22.40. DF: 2153.40. Tinc: 2397.20 (part won. Pool of 2447.55.-camied Jonvento to York 4.15 today). CSF: 2155.56.1 Tilosat: £1,033.09. carried forward to York 4.15 £155.64. Tricast: £1.093.09

5.00 (1m2f) 1, LA MODISTE (R Hughes, 13-2; 2, Count Torry (W Ryan, 14-1); 3, Sweet Supposin (T Durcan, 13-2). ALSO RAN: 2-1 (av Bakers Deughter (4th), 13-2 RAN: 2-1 far Bakers Deughter (4th), 13-2 Piquent, 8 Mazille, 6th), 11 Kingstown Trix, 12 Lew Dancer (8th), Sylvan Princess, 14 The Green Grey, 25 Sommersby, 50 Executive Officer, Subtle Touch, 13 ran, 54, 31, 54, 31, 54, Miss G Kelleway at Whitcombe. Tota: C11.20: C3.30, 52.10, 62.00. DF: 552.10, Tio: E228.00. CSF: 291.94. Tricast: 2577.67.

Placepoit £1.528.40. Quadrott £582.10.

Wolverhampton Going: standard 2.20 (8f) 1. Broadway Melody (D Hofland, 10-1); 2, Castle Ashby Jack (2-1); 3, Bold Spring (6-5 lay), 7 ran. 3, 2%L A Jarvs, Tote: £12.30; £1.80, £1.40. DF. £25.40; CSF: £29.51.

2.50 (fm 1f 79/0) 1, Medern Lucy (S Cerson, 2-1 fav): 2, Bon Guest (5-1): 3, Mysterium (5-1): 9 ran. 14, 51, W Haigh. Tote: 53.50; 52.20, 51.60, 51.50. DF. 57.40. Trio: £8.10. CSF: £11.64. 27.40 (no. 28.10, CSF; 211,84. 3.20 (7) 1. Itsinthepost (F Nonton, 5-1); 2. Mythica (7-1); 3. File Major (8-1). Wild Paim 9-4 tav. 11 ran. NFI. Everset. 3(1,16). V Scarna. Tota: 24.70; 21.70; 22.80; 22.80. DF: 29.70. Trio: 2155 70 (part won. Pool of £46.07 carried forward to York 4.15 today). CSF: 240,29.

Oday). CSF: \$40,29.
3.50 [1m. 100yd) 1, Paople Direct (J. Culm., 9-2); 2, Duke Valentino (12-1); 3, Johnnie The Joker (9-2). Sweet Contrato 5-2 tav. 9 ran. NF: Wallett Beach. SI, M. N. Litmoden. Tote: \$23.80; \$1.10, \$3.20, \$1.60 DF: \$46.50, Trio. \$28.10, CSF: \$57.43. Tricast: \$245.79.

4.20 (1m 4) 1, Mystic Strand (D Sweaney, 4-1); 2, Esperto (2-5 tay); 3, Bahydrago (8-1), 5 ran. NF. Kayzee, 2½, 15; W Turner, Totes £3.00; £1.10, £1.10. DF: £1.50. CSF- £5.77. 4.50 (5.1) 1. Opening Range (P Bradley, 7-2); 2, Arny Leigh (11-2); 3, Marjorie Rose (2-1 lav), 7 ran. Nk, sh hd. N Berry. Tote: 55.30, 22.00, 55.50 DF: £10.50 CSF: £21.99. Placepot: £10.20

Quadpot: 28.20. Fallon win justifies confidence

KIEREN FALLON repaid the faith shown by Charles Wacker III when guiding the owner's Ali-Royal to victory in the Foss Stakes at York yester-day. In the wake of Bosra Sham's defeat in the Eclipse there had been speculation that Fallon would lose the rides on Wacker-owned horses trained by Henry Cecil, including the 1,000 Guineas winner Sleepytime. But the Irishman mut that habitathis Irishman put that behind him with a forceful ride on Ali-Royal, who may now tackle the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood.

Earlier on the card, Dream Of Nurmi found his way info the winner's enclosure and sparked happy memories for his owner, the Olympic gold medallist Chris Brasier. To colt is named in honour of Brasher's idol, Paavo Nurmi

of Finland.
"It's great that the horse has managed a victory on the centenary of Nurmi's birth," said Brasher, who won the steeplechase in 1956. Bint Albaadiya maintained

her unbeaten record in the Singapore Summer Stakes.

حِلَدًا مِنْ الْأَصِل

TRDAY JULY DE Wales give Bucket a second chance

RACING: WEIGHT OF MONEY SUGGESTS TRAINER HAS IDENTIFIED ATTRACTIVE OPPORTUNITY

Pasternak can justify York gamble

BY CHRIS MCGRATH

SIR MARK PRESCOTT is the modern master of the clinical and perplexing art of placing a racehorse. While other trainers resort helplessly to a scattergun approach, Prescottis the nerveless sniper, waiting patiently for the handicapper to put his head over the parapet.

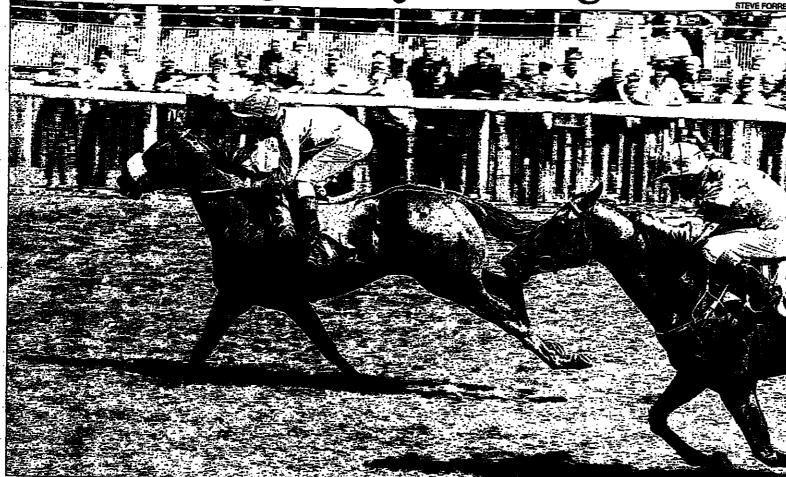
Bitter experience has caused the handicapper to be wary and suspicious; time and again, however, his adversary manages to find an unexpected angle, a clear line of sight — and all the signs are right that the trigger is about to be pulled at York today. Unhappily, Pasternak's ante-post price for the 38th

THE REPORT OF

Nap: HALOWING (9.00 Warwick) Next best: Willie Conquer (3.40 York)

John Smiths Magnet Cup has more than halved since bet-ting opened at the start of the week. The gamble has at least done us the service of confirming that Prescott is apparently taking aim; in which circumstances, it would be most out of character for the esteemed baronet to disappoint his fol-

Pasternak is the only runner not to have had an outing this season, yet there will not be a fitter horse in the field. Significantly, his final outing last autumn was in a 20-runner handicap over today's course and distance — a long-range sighter, no doubt - where he was repeatedly hampered in the straight, but was eventually produced on the outside to



Dashing Blue, ridden by Frankie Dettori, leads home Crofters Ceilidh in the Napoleons Racing Handicap at York yesterday

win by threequarters of a length, going away from his rivals. The handicapper felt obliged to restrict his punishment to 51b.

That performance sealed the reformation that had seen Pasternak win a maiden on his previous start at Bath. A slow learner, the colt had proved particularly dull in being taught to settle. Prescott, so unsentimental about keeping four-year-olds in training, is transparently persuaded that Pasternak can now contimue to progress - and that he has been given the chance ta do so.

Of those standing in his way, Southerly Wind is most intriguing at the bottom of the handicap. He should have stayed the longer trip when disappointing at Royal Ascot last time over 12 miles, and

the soft ground is a better excuse. Either way, he had previously been fulfilling his potential, and represents Lynda Ramsden, one of the few trainers capable of causing the handicapper similar anguish

Another danger is Komi. like Pasternak a son of Soviet Star, Unexposed, he staved on well to take second in the Britannia Handicap at the

to Prescott.

royal meeting and is bred to flourish over this extra distance.

That remains to be seen, however, and at the odds there could be better value about Bay Of Islands, representing a rather less well known yard. He took a while to find his stride when third at Redcar last time, and a strong gallop here would generate further

Jameel Asmar and Wahiba Sands have shown ability, but equally have not been easy to train, while the connections of Humourless command respect in their decision to drop back in trip. Sharp Consul is another that may not have quite stayed last time.

Wafir returns after his tumble at Ascot last time and is another who cannot readily be

Yashmak primed for Oaks victory

By Chris McGrath

FOR a few days this week, Henry Cecil seemed to lose his grip on labour relations, but his touch with fillies remains beyond dispute. In the Kildangan Stud Irish Oaks at the Curragh tomorrow, Yashmak will try to confirm the resumption of business as usual by bringing a third fillies' classic of the season back to Warren Place.

نصلدًا من للم

Cecil's outspoken criticism of Kieren Fallon's tactics on another of his star fillies. Bosra Sham, at Sandown last weekend prompted a six-winner response at Newmarket's July meeting. As the storm clouds have

dispersed from Cecil and Fallon's relationship, their followers will now be looking for the real thing to appear over the Curragh. Yashmak's two impressive wins this season, including a nine-length demolition of the Ribblesdale field last time, were both on softened ground, and the Curragh will ride faster in the absence of thunderstorms.

Apart from the going, one might also have reservations about Yashmak's tantrum at Ascot, which required her to pass a stalls test during the week. Unless the ground eases, then, there is room for hope among the home contingent - especially as Brilliance, the French raider, is not a certain stayer.

Ebadiyla certainly has pros pects of reversing Epsom form (behind Reams Of Verse) with Yashmak, two places ahead in fourth. That was a rough race for such an inexperienced filly, and a more patient ride could yield further improvement.

Aidan O'Brien has won all the season's trish classics and saddles three runners in a bid to emulate Jack Rogers 62 years ago with a fourth. Strawberry Roan, the classiest, should stay this trip but disappointed when trying it in the Irish Derby.

If out of luck, for once, O'Brien will at least be hoping for further signs of excitement ahead from the 2,000 Guineas favourite, King Of Kings, who is taken on for the Omni Racing Anglesey Stakes by an unbeaten British raider, Princely Heir.

CURRAGH TOMORROW

DRAW NO ADVANTAGE

BBC2

4.20 KILDANGAN STUD IRISH OAKS

(Group I. 3-Y-0: £112,700: 1m 4f) (11 runners)

BETTING: 13-8 Yashmak, 7-2 Britiance, 11-2 Stawberry Roan, 7-1 Etadyla, 8-1 Absolute Siee, 10-1 & 16-1 Family Tradition, Shell Ginger, 20-1 others 1996 DANCE DESIGN 9-0 M J Kingne (9-2) D Weld 6 ran

EY'S RESULTS

(m)

2 10 Merilo's Rino 2.40 Tracking

3.40 Benatorn 4.10 Secret Aly 4.40 Benzoe

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.35 Tracking. 4.15 HUMOURLESS (nap).

DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.00 JERVAULX MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES

| Control of Control o

1996: PUN 8-8 W Carson (15-8 tar) D Mortey 8 ren

BETTING: 3-1 Mertin's Ring. 9-2 Expire Park, 7-1 Requestor, Windding Band, 8-1 Warlasty, 10-1 others.

FORM FOCUS EMPIRE PARK 341 3rd of 9 to Boquent in maiden at Windser (60, at Carricle (61, fmm). HEATHYARDS SHEIK 9941 and 14 to Tampin Bay in auction maiden at 9 to Martin Mess 8th of 14 to Tampin Bay in auction maiden at Pontelact (51, good to first). HOWES CHOICE 81 resident and 14 to Opposition Leader in maiden at Beverley (51, heavy).

Warwick (71, good). MERLIN'S RONG 2441 2nd of Selection: EMPIRE PARK

2.35 EXCLUSIVE CAFE BAR AT WAKEFIELD CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-0: £6,386; 61 214yd) (5 runners)

BETTING: Evens Tracking, 5-2 The Glow-Worse, 11-2 Prose, 8-1 Cumbrao Carren, 10-1 Winsome George. 1996; SAHM 9-1 W Carson (1-6 lav) J Duning 2 (20) FORM FOCUS

CUMBRIAN CARLISO Vi 2od of 5 to The Rich Man I TRACKING best Demolitica: Lo 216 in 5-turner in conditions race at Posteriaci (RI, sort), PROSE best Rico Score 7 in 7-turner maden at Southwell (RI, AW). The GLOW-PORM best Macha W in 10-turner master at Newmarket (RI, sort).

Selection: TRACKING

3.10 JOHN SMITHS BITTER HANDICAP (26,368: 61 214yd) (18 runners)

Long templezez Bollen Dornstry 7-6. BETTIKE: 6-1 Royal Mark, 13-2 Gazy Ringdom, 6-1 Fesbern, Stackethok, 10-1 aligh Accord, Pericles, 12-1 Dalla Solpal, Zelda Zenk, 14-7 Accorya, Boldin Donolby, Winley Scoot, 16-4 adhers 1995. (ESTOR PORD 6-8-10 M Dearing (12-1) Mrs V Accorder 12 san

FORM FOCUS

ROYAL MARK chast 6'41 5th of 10 to Techtumow to isombly the control of the contro

3.40 FOSTERS SILVER CUP RATED HANDICAP (£12,838; 1m 5f 194yd) (9 runners)

Long bandcap Bendura S.E. Matanan 8-6 BETTERG. 4.1 Commun. 9-2 Promber Fright 5-1 Top Cook. Shake Princess, 6-1 Benetico, Willie Conquer, 8-7 Fright 12-1 Better Char. 20-1 Cut Link 1896: CELEPIC 4-9-7 W Carson (evens lavi D Modey 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

The control of the second process of the control of

PLINTEER PLECHT 2:41 Zod of 6 to Person Punch on Isand more at Newtony (rise 5) 61yd, 500).

PLINTEER PLECHT 2:41 Zod of 6 to Person Punch on Isand more at Newtony (rise 5) 61yd, 500).

PLINTEER PLECHT 2:41 Zod of 6 to Person Punch on Isand Republication of Cascara (cm. 21 117yd, 500). WILLIE COMMUNIER 3:40 13 of 19 to Zamidista in the Communication of Republication in the Communication of Republication in the Communication of Republication (rise 4) of 10 in the 12-manner Claester Communication of 12-manner Claester Communication of 12-manner Claester Communication of 13 to Zamidista in the Communication of 13 to Zamidista in the Resonance Communication of 13 to Zamidista in the Communication of 13 to Zamidista in the Communication of 13 to Zamidista in the Resonance Communication of 13 to Zamidista in the Resonance Cascara (cm. 21 117yd, 500). WILLIE COMMUNICATION (RISE TABLE) of 19 to Zamidista in the Resonance Cascara (cm. 21 117yd, 500). WILLIE COMMUNICATION (RISE TABLE) of 19 to Zamidista in the Resonance Cascara (cm. 21 117yd, 500). WILLIE COMMUNICATION (RISE TABLE) of 19 to Zamidista in the Resonance Cascara (cm. 21 117yd, 500). WILLIE COMMUNICATION (RISE TABLE) of 19 to Zamidista in the Resonance Cascara (cm. 21 117yd, 500). WILLIE COMMUNICATION (RISE TABLE) of 19 to Zamidista in the Resonance Cascara (cm. 21 117yd, 500). WILLIE COMMUNICATION (RISE TABLE) of 19 to Zamidista in the Communication (rise Table Cascara (cm. 21 117yd, 500). WILLIE COMMUNICATION (RISE TABLE) of 19 to Zamidista in the Resonance Cascara (cm. 21 117yd, 500). WILLIE COMMUNICATION (RISE TABLE) of 19 to Zamidista in the Rise Table Cascara (cm. 21 117yd, 500). WILLIE COMMUNICATION (RISE TABLE) of 19 to Zamidista in the Rise Table Cascara (cm. 21 117yd, 500). WILLIE COMMUNICATION (RISE TABLE) of 19 to Zamidista in the Rise Table Cascara (cm. 21 117yd, 500). WILLIE CASCARA (cm. 21 117yd, 500).

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

course and distance winner 8F — beater favourite in latest race) Going on which horse has won (F - form, good to farm, head. G - good S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets
Trainer, Age and weight. Ruler plus any allowance
The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

4.15 38TH JOHN SMITHS MAGNET CUP

(Handicap: £62,756: 1m 2f 85yd) (21 runners) (9) 120-364 KEY 10 MY HEART 28 (CD.F.G.S) Nits M Picketing) Miss S had 7-10-0 J Weaver (15) 05-0510 PRINCE OF MY HEART 28 (C.G.S.) (6 Hicks) B Halls 4-9-9 __ C Lowther (7) (11) 1/03-50 WANIBA SANDS 24 (F) (Lord Srephtling) J Duston 4-8-13 ___ N Derity (4) 4416-30 BALL SOWN 51 (D.F.G.S) (C Lines) D Thom 7-8-13 ___ DR McCabe (20) 410090 KUMA LEPS 24 (C.F.) NIT H Sultan Ahmed Sahly P Cole 4-8-13 _ T Chalan (5) 4712-36 HANOURLESS 24 (SF.D.G) Sheith Molammed 1 Current 4-8-12 _ L Detact (15) 10 Chalan 1 - 1

Long bandicas: Southerly Wind 7-8. SETTHIC: 9-2 Pastarnet, 5-1 Kons, 7-1 Plumoutess, 10-1 Southerly Wind, 12-1 Fats, 14-1 Sharp Consul. 16-1 Gome Ploy, Neiro Mothern, Ossay, Wahibu Sands, 20-1 Bay Ol Islands, Kuzis Lipis, Walis, 25-1 others 1698: WILCIUMA 5-9-2 Pat Eddlery (10-1) P Makin 17 cm FORM FOCUS

PRINCE OF MY HEART best Wijgra 71 in 11-monet landicap at Newbury (1m 11, soil), MAJOR CHANGE 48 2nd of 12 to Give the A Ring in handicap over course and distance (good) with GAME PLOY (3to worse off) 461 3m, WAHERA SAMES about 461 5th and STAR MAMAGER 1941 5th, PASTERNAK beat Obelos 141 in 20-minur landicap over course and distance (good) bel 96. WARTR next 2nd of 12 to Champagne Price by the Zeitand Gold Cup Handicap at Redcar (1m 21, good

le Bern) with NAJM MUREEN (6lb better off) about 6%1 7th. KOMI 11%1 2nd of 28 to Fly To The Stars in the Britannia Hendicap at Royal Ascot (1m. good). SHAMP CONSUL next 2nd ol 16 to Champagne Princa in tendicate at Newma she! (1m 2f. good) with BAY OF ISLANDS (1b better off) about 2%1 5th and WAFR (3th better off) 6%1 9th. BAY OF ISLANDS about 44 3 and of 9 to Hen Harmer in Barders of Baylor (1m 2f. good).

4.45 NEWCASTLE BROWN ALE HANDICAP (£6,628: 61) (22 runners)

Long handicap: Mister Westsound 7-3 SETTING: 11-2 Orgo: 10-1 Bayon, Marsad, 12-1 Thusab, 14-1 See Health Soy, Benzoe, Palacegate Touch, Russ Lad, Sarot Express, So Interplat, 16-1 Danne, Fareney Lacs, Marile, Style Dancer, 20-1 others 1998: DOUBLE SPLENDOUR 6-9-0 N Darley (4-1 tay) P Fedgate 18 ran

FORM FOCUS

OGGI about 2%1 4th of 30 to Selhusspark Flyer in the Woldingham Handican at Haydoot (81, good to sett). DAAWE best SARTT EXPRESS (6b better of) 13%1 to 10-cunner handican at Reborn (82, good to sett) with HALMANEPROR (3b better of) 11%1 at 10%1 (7b better of) 11%1 and FOIST (3b better of) 55%1 10h HAMANE SART (3b) better of) 55%1 10h HAMANE (3b) to Grey Knapoton in American over crosse and distance (good to sold) SHATICE (11b better of) 11%1 6th HAMANE (11b better of) 11 10th, BAYIN (3b) worse off) 50 HAMANE (3b) to the off 11 10th, BAYIN (3b) worse off) 51 10h better of) 11%1 14th, HAMANEPROR (3b) better of) 11%1 14th, HAMANEPROR (3b) better of) 11%1 14th, BAYIN (3b) worse off) 51 35h.

Chopstow (51, sair), BEE HEALTH BOY about 21

5.15 FISHERGATE NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-0: £5,580: 51) (7 runners) 34111 BABY GRAND 21 (D.F.G) (Mrs D Sharp) T Barron 9-7 . . . Kienberley Hart (5) 96 34(1) BARY SPONDE 27 (B.D.S.) (Deay) M W Except 9-5 Tensors That CST 2135 HART SPONDE 27 (B.D.S.) (Deay) M W Except 9-5 Tensors 10 SOCKET SET 14 (D) U Frebruil) B McMelton 9-5 M Roberts 422 MYSTOCSM 12 (Des C British) C British B-12 LD School 4031 PSPMLESS 31 (D.S.) (Consultation Link) MTdete 9-11 Kim Thinker 044 GRAND ESTATE 14 (A Armitage) T Except 8-2 K Darley 3500 ADREMALIN 25 (T Fancet) Mis 3 Remoden 7-10 L Channock

SETTING: 3-1 Baby Grand: 7-2 Mysticism, 9-2 Peorilless, 5-1 Grand Estate, 13-2 Hinst Bridge, 7-1 Socied Sec. 1996; TOP OF THE FORM 8-5 T Williams (7-2 ji-bv) M Jahrston B rac

FORM FOCUS

BABY GRAND beat Premum Pleased 54 in 5numer auction novice at Apr (54, good). HRST
problem auction novice at Apr (54, good). HRST
problem 55 the of 8 to GMy For Gold in condition,
nace at Beveriey (51, good to fam). SOCKET SET
beat Happy Days 1141 in 12-report auction marken
at Southwell (54, AM). MYSTICISM 2741 2nd of 9 to
at Southwell (54, AM). MYSTICISM 2741 2nd of 9 to
Selection: BABY GRAND

TRAINERS

COURSE SPECIALISTS Radas 17 185 19 120 57 109 JOCKEYS 26.3 D R McCabe 25.0 1 Detari 22.2 G Parlan 20.2 M Roberts 20.0 G Duffield 19.5 R Cochrame

Conditions are right for Mallia to strike



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

> YORK **CHANNEL 4**

3.10: Lynda Ramsden sets a puzzle by saddling three runners. Stackattack could come out best of them after getting bogged down at Newcastle last time, but preference -- especially if the ground keeps drying out is for Royal Mark, just denied in a valuable race over course and distance last year when trained by Bill Watts. He has slipped to a 4lb lower mark, despite hav-ing shaped well on both starts for his new connections, notably over an inadequate six furlongs last time. Bollin Dorothy represents an in-form yard.

3.40: A trappy race, in which Willie Conquer steps up in trip after finishing third in the Bessborough at Royal Ascot. He pulled hard even off the strong pace there, however, and may not get home. By contrast, this small field and drying ground may not provide Top Cees with the test he needs at this trip. Benatom is a possibility back on faster going, but Further Flight continues to enchant his admirers at 11 and may not be done yet. He kept on well when finding his stride last time, and has been freshened up by a

4.15: See above. 4.45: Bollin Joanne's fine run

here yesterday, along with Danetime's win at the July meeting, makes Oggi's Wokingham fourth read all the better, but Mallia is worth a close look despite unpromising form figures. There are excuses for them all, chiefly unsuitably soft ground, sometimes compounded by a poor draw or inappropriate trip. As a result, he has been dropped 14lb since the start of the season, and is strongly fancied on his return to the course and distance of his success in the valuable William Hill Trophy last summer - especially if the ground continues to dry out. A middle draw allows Kevin Darley to choose his fa-

CHRIS McGrath

WARWICK

THUNDERER

6.30 Fayrana. 7.00 Grovefair Lad. 7.30 Paradise Navy. 8.00 Night Express. 8.30 Malabl, 9.00 Song Mist.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) DRAW: 5F-7F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

6.30 NICK KNIGHT MAIDEN AUCTION FILLIES STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,785: 7f) (13 runners) FANTI DANCER B Median 8-7 5022 FAYRANA 32 I I III

LAY-SPRICK LAUT J J unem 6-4

OD AMASAPPHRE I AR Hodges 8-1

RUBY BEAR W M Brishoume 8-1

OS SHALADOR 32 B Milman 8-1

OD SING FOR ME 26 R Hollinshead 8-1

6430 TREMONNOW 7 J Brathey 8-1

DS23 UNIVERSAL LADY 14 C Jerres 8-1 2-1 Sharp Cracker, 4-1 Fayrana Universal Lady, 10-1 Famil Dancer, Shakafor. Tremonyow, 12-1 Jato Dancer, 16-1 others.

7.00 ANDY MOLES SELLING HANDICAP (£2,910: 1m 2f 169yd) (10) | 22.5 | 107-117 | 21 105 | 20 | (10) | (10) |
| 1 | 10124 | ARZANI 10 (6) D Cosgrove 6-9-11 | R Hughes 1 |
| 2 -320 ACQUITTAL 23 (V_DF) A Streete 5-8-12 | S Sanders 10 |
| 3 | VIDS OPERA FAN 24 K Morgan 5-8-11 | Dean McKoown 9 |
| 4 | 0060 MURTHE-HELLSHARRY 17 P Ballon 4-8-7 | P McCabe (9) 4 |
| 5 | 0006 RUSET SYMBOL 10 (F) M Harchard 6-8-6 | J Ounn 6 |
| 5 | 3440 | MOH DOMM 35 R Juckes 3-8-5 | V Stattery 2 |
| 7 | 0045 GROVEFAR LAD 17 M Wave 3-7-12 | A Whetan (3) 8 |
| 8 | -006 HOULSH RUTTER 8 R Bestaman 3-7-10 | R Weston (7) 5 |
| 9 | 0000 DUSAR DOLLY 47 (S) M Syen 7-7-10 | M Balton (3) 7 |
| 10 | 0-00 TOCCO LEWEL 47 (S) M Syen 7-7-10 | M Balton (3) 7 |
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| 10 | 1000 DUSAR DOLLY 47 (S) M Syen

7-2 Arzaro, 5-1 Runer Symbol, Grovelar Lad. 6-1 Opera Fan. Foolish Flutter, 13-2 Hoh Down, 7-1 Azquittal, 8-1 others.

7.30 WATCH SECURITY HANDICAP

(£3,200: 1m 6/ 194yd) (12) 1 3330 PARADISE NAVY 18 (B.D.F.6) C Egenton 8-9-13 R Hughtes 2 0015 SALSKA 18 (CDLF.6) A Sheene 6-8-7 R Hawlin (3) 6 1 1-4 SARASOTA STORM 19 (BF.D.F.5) M Bell 5-9-1 M Fenton 5 4 341 SCHWIZZEL 18 (C.S.) K Brighoster 6-8-10 T Outro 4 5 0251 MAY KING MAYYEM 7 (6) Mr. A Rung 4-8-6 J T Williams 1 2 235 MAY KING MAYYEM 7 (6) Mr. A Rung 4-8-6 J T Williams 1 7 4 231 ROYAL CROLES 5 (F.S.5) (Williams 8-8-2 (Soc) R Firench (6) 7 9 5331 BRING DAWN 8 (S) M Johnston 3-7-12 N Variey 10 9 5331 BRING DAWN 8 (S) M Johnston 3-7-10 N Variey 10 15 9-2 KILLSWICK 44 / Rung 6-7-0 1 A Poli (5) 8 N Cariste 11 59-2 KILLSWICK 44 / Rung 6-7 0 1 A Poli (5) 8 N Cariste 11

5-2 Indigo Dawn, 6-1 Satska, 7-1 ktay King Lleyhem, 8-1 Sarasota Storm Schrozzie, 10-1 Royal Circus, Bisquel-de-Bouche, 12-1 other; THE *** TIMES

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8.00 HOLSTEN PILS HANDICAP

1 0711 THE RUGATIVE 3 (0.F.S) P Mitchell 4-10-0 (7ex) 2 0040 BEAU VENTURE 26 (D.F.G.S) 8 Palling 9-9-10 3 1403 RIVER TERN 26 (F.6) J Bradley 4-9-9 4 4245 NIGHT EXPRESS 7 (BF) B Hangury 3-9-4 1403 HOVER 1991 25 (F.6) J Braziley 4-9-9 K HT
4245 NGENT EXPRESS 7 (BF) B Harbury 3-9-1
4006 SHARP STOCK 21 R Hodge: 4-9-3
6-43 MALLACH HILL LAD 14 (B) B McMaron 4-8-12 S
2006 CAPTAIN SNEAD 24 (B) K Bridgeste 5-8-7 V
5-55 WINDRUSH BOY 43 (CD.F.G) M R Bookey 7-8-7 C
-000 FORZARA 5 (B.D.G) J Spearing 4-8-4 S
4350 SOTONIAN 4 (D) P Felgale 4-8-2 A
0-66 KOLUGS 49 J Brants 3-7-10

8.30 HBG HIGGS & HILL MAIDEN STAKES (£3,900: 7f) (13) 0-02 AWASSI 8 h Methd, 4-9-7
ON RAILEY GODDESS 1 R Amesborg 4-9-7
ON RAILEY GODDESS 1 R Amesborg 4-9-7
ON RAILEY GODDESS 1 R Amesborg 4-9-13
23 JORROCKS 19 (86) I Bakeng 3-8-13
23 JORROCKS 19 (86) I Bakeng 3-8-13
24 JMANAR 28 (87) J Dunkto 3-8-13
ON PETSONIC 19 Y Soare 3-9-13
SWEET FORTINE 21 M Stonie 3-8-13
ON BEAUCATCHER 8 M Heaton-Eitic 3-8-8
LYMS FLP 9 Microgram 3-8-8
3-3 MADE SOLO 7 H Contry 3-8-8
3-3 MADE SOLO 7 H Contry 3-8-8
4-8 SHOSHALOZA 7 P R Weether 3-8-8
4-8 SHOSHALOZA 7 P R Weether 3-8-8
4-8 FORTONIC -2-2 Marks Rold 4-1 Malabit 9-2

9.00 DOMINIC OSTLER FILLIES HANDICAP 3-Y-U: Y-4, T-23, T) (T-2)

1 5-SO SECRET COMBE 28 (F) P Mahn 9-7

2 0603 HALOWING 17 (F) J G Smyth-Oebourne 9-4

3 160- BRISKA 284 (CD,F) R Aleburg 9-3.

4 6-00 CARBBEAN 18AR 47 M Soute 9-2.

5 4534 SONG MIST 28 (F) P Cote 9-1

6 31 FARLEY GREEN 45 (D,F) H Capty 8-13

7 0000 FARLEY CORE 45 (D,F) H Capty 8-13

7 0000 FARLEY GREEN 14 (F) M Chapmon 8-6

9 -040 MIDYAN QUEEN 14 R Hottershead 9-3

10 -004 MY GREEN 18-2 (D,F) R Hodge: 7-10

17 6-00 WRN PRINCESS 19 B Mechan 7-10

18 6-00 WRN PRINCESS 19 B Mechan 7-10

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRABBERS: A Streeter, 4 wanners from 14 runners, 28 6%, J Dunlop, 11 from 42, 26,7%, B Hanbury, 3 from 13, 23 1%, J Hills, 4 from 21, 19 0%, M Haton-Eilfs, 6 from 33, 18 2%, M Strote, 4 from 23, 17 4%, P Melan, 6 from 25, 17 1% JOCKEYS: J Red. 17 witners from 89 ndes. 19 1%. T Contr. 16 from 97. 16 5%; Martin Dayer, 5 from 35, 14 3%, M Roberts. 5 from 36 13 9%, R Harlin, 4 from 30, 13 3%, R Hughes, 5 from 38, 13.2%, S Sanders, 6 from 55, 10 9%.

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Coulthard stops to sign autographs for some of his many admirers yesterday, on arriving for practice for the British Grand Prix, at Silverstone tomorrow

Coulthard feels he's coming home

t was a slice of rural England, stolen from a chocolate box. A craftsman was renew-ing the thatched roof of an Elizabethan cottage, set deep in the Oxfordshire countryside. Sunlight stole between mature trees and the air was alive with birdsong. Then. along jogged David Coulthard.

"Good luck for Sunday," the craftsman cried. "Wazzat?" his labourer, who was at the bottom of the ladder, out of sight, asked. "It's that racing driver, came the reply. Coulthard shrugged, waved and sprinted up the hill. Expectation is everywhere.
Tomorrow, at Silverstone, he

reaches the landmark of his fiftieth grand prix. As the principal British hope in his home race, he must be all things to all men, and women. Emotion is his enemy, clarity of thought his priority. As he retreats to his country hotel each night, and orders room service, the anticipation that he arouses closes in.

On the drive into Silverstone, Coulthard pulled up at traffic ights on a roundabout over the M40. Four men, towing a caravan in a family saloon, which waited alongside the Scot's top-of-therange Mercedes, were instantly

transformed into schoolboys. They hung out of the car, waving blue baseball caps that pledged allegiance to Damon Hill. Coulthard laughed, lowered his electric window, and shouted: "You're supporting the wrong

bloke. You've got no chance, so don't put any money on him." At the circuit, a marshal implored him to autograph a photograph for his wife. "How long have you been married?" Coulthard asked. "Too long." It

was a typical snatch of small talk.

a brief respite from signing silk

Michael Calvin on the weight of expectation surrounding

the McLaren driver as he reaches a landmark at Silverstone

flags, scraps of paper and lucky

I liken this to coming home, after you've been travelling for a long time," Coulthard reflected. "You arrive through your front door, and there is an immediate feelgood factor. You dump your bags, kick your shoes off, and put the kettle on.

There is a special sense of tradition, a real feeling of belong-ing. I know the marshals, the guys on the gate and the girls in the canteen. I love driving past the sign which says 'Welcome to Silverstone, Home of British Motorsport'. It's all good stickyour-chest-out stuff."

The faces, pressed against the wire fence that separates the paddock glitterati from the public are wistful. They scream the names of passing drivers with a haunting intensity. Coulthard is aware of accusations that the sport is growing away from its audience, but each second of a grand prix weekend is accounted for.

Typically, he barely had time to

PRACTICE TIMES: 1, M Hakkinen (Fin. McLaren-Mercedas) Irimi 22:935sec; 2, J Villeneuve (Can., Williams-Renault) 123:366; 3, H-H Frentzon (Ger., Williams-Renault) 123:367; 4, J Herbeat (Ger., Sauber-Petronas) 1:23:581; 5, J Alest (Fr., Benetion-Renault) 1:23:785; 6, G Fischella (II, Jordan-Peugeot) 1:23:883; 7, M Schumacher (Ger., Ferrari) 1:24:132; 8, A Wurz (Austria, Benetion-Renault) 1:24:203; 9, El runne (GE., Ferrari) 1:24:243; 10, J Trutti (II. Prost-Mugen-Honda) 1:24:948; 11, J Magnussen (Den., Stewart-Ford) 1:25:136; 13, D Coultrand (GB, McLaron-Mercedes) 1:25:360, 14, M Sato (Fin., Tyrrel-Ford) 1:26:036; 16, S Nakano (Japan., Prost-Mugen-Honda) 1:26:270, 16, U

complete a debriefing session with his engineers after yesterday's free practise session, when a spin left thirteenth, behind his McLaren team-mate, Mika Hakkinen. A helicopter was waiting to whisk him to a function at Eton College, and on to a subsequent sponsors' cocktail party.

oulthard said: "You look at the people behind that wire fence and feel amazingly guilty. Effectively, they are the ones who are paying for you to go racing. In a way, given that what you can't see can't bother you, it would almost be we had a brick wall, instead of that wire fence.

"I'm not a petrolhead. I'm not car crazy. But I can understand why they do what they do. I remember my first time-here, as a spectator. The Ferrari was the first car on the circuit. It was a misty morning and you could hear the noise in the distance before you could see the car. It had something about it.

DETAILS FROM SILVERSTONE

Katayama (Japan, Minardi-Hart) 1:26,446; 17. N Fonlana (Arg, Sauber-Petronas) 1:26,640; 18, R Barnchello (Br, Stewart-Ford) 1:26,785; 19. P Dinz (Br, Arrows-Yamaha) 1:26,797, 20, D Hill (GB, Arrows-Yamaha) 1:26,810, 21. T Margues (Br, Minard-Hart) 1:27,965; 22. J Verstappen (Holt, Turet-Ford) 1:27,923 CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS (after eight races): Diversi* 1, M Schumacher 47,015; 2. Villeneuve 23, 3. Frentzen 19: 4, Irvene 18, 5 equal, O Panis (Fr. Prost-Mugen-Honda) and Alesi 15. 7. Couthard 11. 8 equal, G Berger (Austria, Benatton-Renauli) and Haldinen 10: 10, Fischella 8, 11, Herbert 7; 12, Barnchello 6, 13, R Schumacher 5: 14, Salo 2: 15 equal, N Larini (It, Sauber-Petronas) and Nakano 1.

"It flashed by. When it was gone I just said: 'Wow, that was great.' What is great about that? It was just a car painted red making a loud noise. But, to be there, to smell it as it went by, was worth the hundred-odd quid it cost me."

A racing driver is expected to embody self-reliance. The best instinctively compartmentalise their lives. But, at Silverstone, Coulthard is perpetually am-bushed by the humanity which underpins technology. Even in the cockpit, travelling at 195mph, he cannot escape his public.

"You are more aware of the crowd at Silverstone than anywhere else," he said. "It's a sea of people. Not an indistinct crowd, but individual groups, because your eyes are taking in bite-sized chunks of information. On top of that, you have to absorb the noise.

'I can remember driving inside Alesi into Stowe [corner] in 1995. I could actually hear the crowd going 'Aah' above the noise of me changing down. It was the most bizarre thing. Until I realised what

the commotion was, I almost stopped driving. It was as if, suddenly, I had become detatched from the car."

Self-control, however, is an essential self-defence mechanism. Despite the provocation of misfortune, most acute when clutch failure robbed him of victory in Montreal last month, Coulthard has forced himself to become a student of human nature. It is a timeless lesson, that gains in

importance as a race day unfolds. Formula One is the big time, but I've been racing for 15 years," he said. "Throughout that time, I've always tried to hide and control my emotions. If I'm up someone's exhaust pipe, and can see him shaking his head, it tells me he's frustrated. He's mine, because I feel I can force him into a

"I was disappointed with myself in Canada. I lost the plot completely. I punched the steering wheel, and did all sorts of things I hope never to do again. The emotions might have been natural, but I gave off the wrong signals. Racing is as much in the mind as it is in the physical act of controlling a

That is why I read body language at the drivers' briefing. Who is yawning? Who is relaxed? Who is uptight? I can go into the race with a game-plan. The way a person drives reflects his character - have you ever seen someone who is crazy drive as smooth as

"There are so many things to consider. You change your plan as you go around - when you are braking late, getting the power on early, monitoring the fuel load and checking that your tyres aren't blistered. In the end, we all have to get the job done."

Alien activity to be viewed from another world

The excellent thing about motor racing is that it gives the lie to all that Chariots of the Gods nonsense. When people wag their fingers and say: "But why did ancient civilisations make patterns on the ground that could be seen only from outer space?" you can kick a stone and refute them thus: "Ah, but look at the grand prix — that's the same." Which ought to shut them up very nicely.

Because it's true what they say. You stand at a point on the Silverstone track, your face contorted against the grit and noise, and cars hurtle past in an eat-mydust fashion, too fast for you to check which ones they are. What use is a ground-level perspective on this? None at all. But Martians point a skinny finger at a grand prix and say: "Hey, that's interest-ing, the red one's been round

more times than all the others." Whether the practice laps yesterday were much use to the drivers, I do not know, but they certainly helped this novice, overheated speciator to realise what she was up against. "What on earth — nyow, nyow — is going on here?" I asked myself. To which the only reply was — nyow —

Juggling binoculars, crib-sheet and sandwich, I stood out on a small, turfed mound near the Brooklands corner. This delightful spot, behind the ubiquitous link-fencing, had been found after a lengthy walk through motor-home car parks, along potholed Tarmac and across random patch-es of scrubby grass. First tip to grand prix visitors: don't wear open-toed sandals.

Silverstone is, basically, a bleak, flat aerodrome, and the best way to traverse it is by jeep, not foot. As I trudged my way into umpteen roped-off dead ends, I became so foot-weary and so envious of anybody on wheeled transport that I considered mugging small children for their bikes.

Possibly, this enforced pedestrianism is all part of a cunning ruse to make the fast car look more attractive (like the traffic jam on the A43, which was so slow it allowed me to complete The Times Two crossword while at the wheel of a moving vehicle). But, in fact, it just makes the fast car look even more irritating, because you're hot and worn out.

Only a flea circus is more. suspect than Formula One as a spectator sport. Did you see that? No. what? Hang on, it's gone again. And who cares?

So I'm proud to say that, by the end of my first lengthy spectator stint, I had learnt to recognise Damon Hill's blue-and-white Danka job — nyow — also Jacques Villeneuve and Johnny Herbert nyow, nyow! This self-taught expertise bears witness to considerable levels of concentration.

The trouble with recognising cars travelling at big speeds is that, when you look up again from your crib-sheet to doublecheck (yes, No 16!), they've gone. The saving grace, of course, is that they come back round again in a minute and a half.

I have to admit that the nearest thing I had come to motor racing was bewildered possession of a Scalextric set, which I remember

LYNNE TRUSS



Kicking and Screaming

mainly for introducing me to the notion of not crying brattishly when the Christmas present turns out not to be a pony. This Scalextric made a big impact in other ways, however. I learnt the peculiar haddocks-bottom smell of faulty wiring and the dire consequences of a transformer burning a hole in a carpet.

In several ways, too, Scalextric stood me in good stead for Silverstone that aimless way a disappointed child bolts the trackbits together — clack! — to make a subtly different shape to a circular track; that annoying din; that mind-numbing lack of variation, as the cars go round and round and occasionally fall off with the wheels spinning; and that frustrating way that the red car always finishes first.

Despite my Scalextricky expertise, the vocabulary takes some getting used to. I keep asking: "And who does Johnny Herbert play for, I mean drive for?" which gives the game away at once.

u motor racing, it turns out that a "team" is two drivers, and not six or seven, as always imagined. And I heard yesterday that many of the drivers will be concerned with "saving their rubber" this weekend — a useful and graphic phrase that has inexplicably not been adopted in the wider world of metaphor. I've heard of people keeping their powder dry, and sparing their horses. But, from now on, I shall save my rubber, and see if anyone notices.

And what of the drivers, those gods among men? Because the media centre is situated within the famous paddock, one bumps into snake-hipped men in padded racing-suits who are presumably the stars of the show. But, thou I saw someone called Mika Hakkinen signing autographs for some frantic fans penned up behind a wire fence (I asked who he wast. I have to say that he looked rather ordinary to me. No special physical type is

suited to driving a car. I suppose - not bulging thighs, not being taller or fitter than other people. All their famous magnetism must come from the danger of their job. which is why they are worshipped like Spitfire pilots.

There is a real race tomorrow, at which point the sport may begin to make sense. The striving. the gear changes, the pitstops, the nyow-nyow. I'd still rather see it from a flying saucer.

Runner whose mythical feats were reserved for metric mile

Constructors': 1. Ferrart 65pts, 2. Williams-Renault 52; 3. Benetion-Renault 25; 4. McLaren-Mercedes 21; 5. Prost-Mugen Honda 16; 6. Jordan-Peugeot 13, 7. Saubsr-Petronas 8; 8. Stewart-Ford 6; 9. Tyrrell-Ford 2. GRANDS PRIX TO COME: Tomornow: British (Shverstone). July 27; German (Hockerheim) Aug 10; Hungarian (Hungaroring) Aug 24; Belgian (Shorzal Sept 21; Austrian (A-1 Ring). Sept 28; Lucembour (Niarburging). Oct 12; Japanese Lucembour (Niarburging). Oct 12; Japanese Lucembour (C. 26; European Lierar). TELEVISION: ITV: Today: 12:30-2.15pm (qualifying, five); 5:30-5:50 (presew). Tomorrow: 10-4:15pm (ive): 11.10pm-12.15am (hyghights).

TO REWRITE history is one thing: to rewrite mythology quite another. The world of sport will be shattered to hear a claim that Roger Bannis-ter was not, in fact, the first man to run a mile in less than four minutes. That honour, he alleges, should go to Jack Lovelock, of New Zealand, who did it not once but twice and as far back as 1935.

This startling claim comes in a forthcoming book by a chap called Chris Harte, an historian of Australian cricket. The book is the brilliantly titled A Sportswriter's Year (clearly a tribute to the book of the same title published in 1989 and written by a chap called Barnes), and is to be published by London Sports Reporting Agency.

Harte claims that Lovelock man-

aged the phenomenal time of 3min 52sec, but kept it dark. He did not want to forewarn opponents for the Olympic Games. Harte duly collected his gold in Berlin in the 1.500 metres. Thus he made sporting history, missing out on mythology.

□ Congratulations to Tina and Jouni Jussila, who between them won the traditional Finnish event. the wife-carrying world championship, which was held in Sonkajārvi, in northern Finland, last weekend. Jouni carted his tow-headed lady around a 236-metre obstacle course to claim a world record. Is this a sporting re-enactment of the Viking pursuits of rape and pillage?

Singling out

More on the A team, the continuing crises of football clubs whose names commence with this most unfortunate of letters. Louis Burgess, old friend of this column, writes to tell me of an oversight: in previous correspondence on this most fascinating of subjects, he forgot about Altrincham. In 1980, the club was denied membership of the Football League by a single vote - because two of its promised supporters within the League

SIMON BARNES



On Saturday

were unable to register their

The Grimsby Town representative was inadvertently sitting in the wrong part of the hall to vote, while the Luton Town man got the time of

the meeting wrong and arrived a few minutes after the vote. Altrinoham would probably be in the League to this day, had events fallen otherwise. What is more, this was the first year a single non-League club had stood for election against four candidates for

Had Altrincham been elected and done well, which was likely, it is speculated that they would have changed the traditional notion of the League as a closed shop. Other members of the ill-fated A teams are Aberdare, Accrington Stanley, Ashington, Aldershot and

Show piece

Every now and then a humble sporting spectator rises up to claim his 15-minutes-worth and so this column sends its best congratulations to Mitchell Libonati. 27. He made it as guest on the David Letterman Show — because, he



claims. he found a piece of Evander Holyfield's ear. No doubt there will soon be as many pieces of the aforementioned organ as there are fragments of the True

☐ Fashion note, or as the Silver Surfer of Marvel Comics used to say: "What new and dreadful madness is this?" Newcastle United announce a new away strip: "The mainly navy-coloured away shirt incorporates double vertical panels in fashionable [what?] orange and forest green with an offset Newcastle Brown Ale sponsor's logo. The shirt is compliment-ed [sic] by a traditional ribbed crew neck and cuffs ... the technical fitting [eh?] goalkeeper shirt incorporates orange colouring with psychedelic print offset." The away shirt is a snip for Ip less than forty quid. Away the suckers!

Birdies galore

Golf courses have been called "the airport lounges of landscape gar-dening". Their unnatural livid green, their herbicides and their fungicides make them about as natural as an electricity pylon. But, increasingly, golfing people, sensitive to such criticism (and also perhaps sensitive to the pleasures of a more natural environment), have sought to improve

To celebrate this, 12 golf courses on each side of the Atlantic took part in a Europe v United States Ryder Cup competitive bird race: who could see most birds on their golf course? This was organised by David Stubbs, executive director of the European Golf Association Ecology Unit.

Europe scored 217 birds in the 24 hours of the race; the US managed 237 but, under a prearranged handicapping system, finished sec-ond. Valderrama, in Spain, managed 48 species and a club near Pamplona managed the speciacular count of 15 birds of prey. True, many of the species recorded do not reflect the conditions of the golf course the birds were overflying on migration. But it is all splendid stuff, so best greenings from this column to all concerned.

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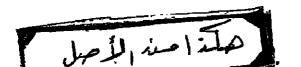
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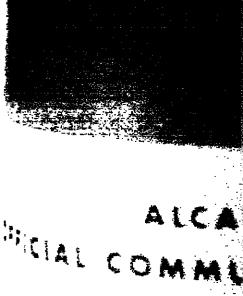
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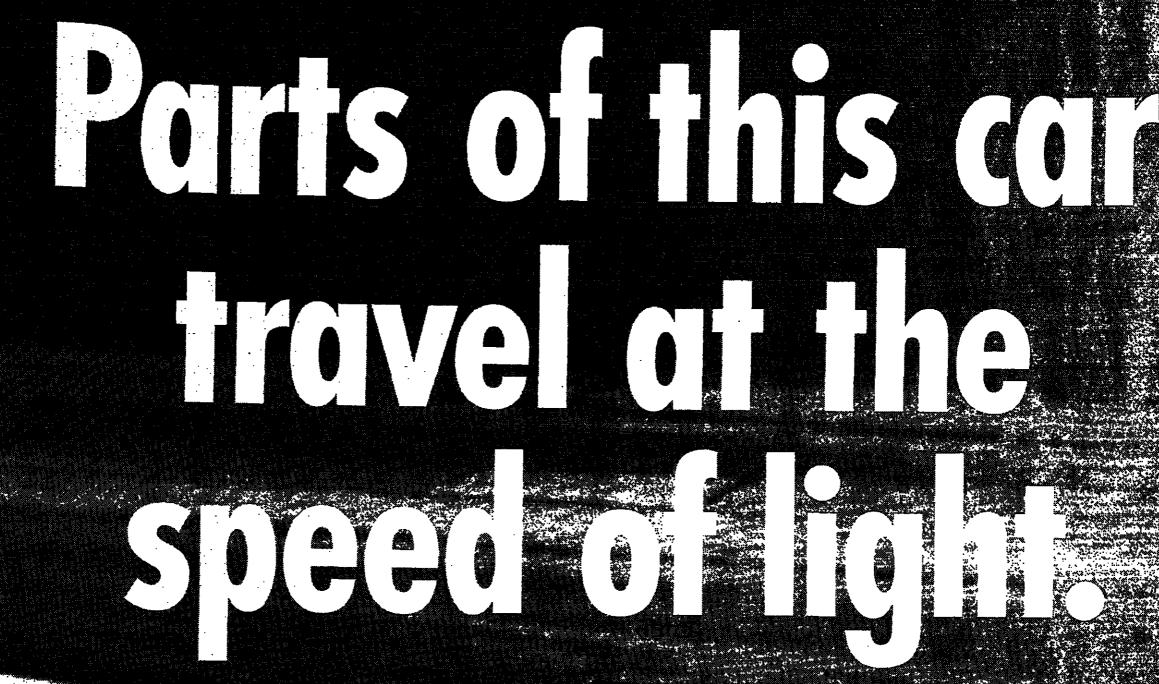
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BOXING

Joking falls flat as Akinwande plots champion's downfall

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN. BOXING CORRESPONDENT, IN LAKE TAHOE

A FEW years ago, a bout between Lennox Lewis and Henry Akinwande would have been considered a mismatch. Indeed. after Akinwande's first contest with Axel Schulz, which was a boring draw, a sharp-witted colleague asked Mickey Duff, who was then Akinwande's manager: "You said that if Akinwande won this fight he would meet Lewis. Did you mean Jerry Lewis?"

That was five years ago. Since then Akinwande has won 17 contests and today the oft 7in Dulwich heavyweight will be facing Lennox Lewis, the World Boxing Council champion, here. The joke is now as flat as those opponents Akinwande has knocked out. The challenger is a greatly improved boxer who poses a distinct threat to Lewis.

Whatever the outcome, it is a pairing that will be welcomed by boxing, which is still recling from the blow dealt by Mike Tyson in Las Vegas two weeks ago. This is the acceptable face of the sport. It is marvellous to think that two Londoners will help to give boxing back some credibility. Lewis and Akinwande are quiet.

retiring types who have refused to engage in slanging matches. When Akinwande was asked by an American reporter if he had any harred for Lewis, he replied: "No. I only wish him luck." Akinwande has developed, in the

hands of Don Turner. Evander Holyfield's trainer, into a worldclass heavyweight. He has an excellent jab and a knockout punch in his right hand. Lewis is a far superior boxer and more experi-



Lewis: in aggressive mood

enced but Akinwande's height and awkward style could just embarrass the champion.

Akinwande is favoured by American boxing writers because his victory over Schulz in the second match looked a good result as, subsequently, the German did enough to beat George Foreman but did not get the verdict. Also, the Americans feel that Lewis has looked too apprehensive after his second-round knockout by Oliver McCall three years ago.

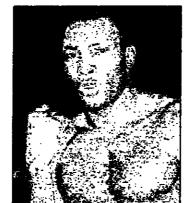
Turner said that he expects his man to win because he has fast hands. "All Akinwande has to do is nullify Lewis's right hand and hit him on the chin." he said. "Akinwande throws more punches than any other heavyweight. The other day he was up to 65 punches per round. If he throws the combination that knocked out Jeremy Williams [for the WBO title] forget about Lewis: he will fall, too." However, there are some ques-

tion marks over Akinwande. There are doubts whether he can take a punch. None of his 31 opponents has been able to land a clean blow on his chin to show us if he can take it. Also, Akinwande's performance against Scott Welch, who is the worst challenger for the heavyweight title the world has ever seen. causes some concern. Why was he not able to stop such an incompetent challenger? And when Welch made his only serious attempt to hit Akinwande on the chin, the Briton fell back in confusion.

Emanuel Steward. Lewis's trainer, is happy that the Americans favour Akinwande. He said that

King promises to

stand by his man DON KING, the boxing promoter. said vesterday that he would stand by Mike Tyson after the heavyweight championship bout two weeks ago in which Tyson bit Evander Holyfield's ears. I am not making excuses for Mike, but I know him and I know that he's a good human being." King said. breaking his silence on the contro-versy. He's my friend and I stand with him. What happened was an aberration, a sad episode that all of us wish could have been



when Lewis knocks him out they

might begin to realise that he is indeed a force to be reckoned with.

Steward has, for the last seven

weeks, been at Big Bear Lake,

California, where Lewis has been

training, trying to convince his man that he need not fear

Akinwande's power. He has told

Lewis that having stood up to

blows from Ray Mercer and fought

him toe to toe, he has little to fear.

the last two days he had managed

to get Lewis into the kind of

aggressive mood needed to beat

Akinwande. He said that Lewis

would be wearing white trunks and

white boots, which would influence

the champion to get up on his toes and look lively. The trainer has a theory that black, being a punch-er's colour, slows you down. White

When a fighter has light trunks he feels lighter and flashier. Just

like when I put on a tuxedo, I feel

conservative. When I put on white shoes and a yellow tie I am ready to

go out there and play. " he said.

If Steward is right and Lewis

does take the initiative. Akinwande

could find his combinations too

much. Even though Akinwande is

awkward and difficult to hit, it

needs just one good punch from

Lewis to break down his defences

Akinwande's favour for a few

rounds until Lewis has found a

inside, Lewis could finish the

contest quickly, perhaps in the lifth

way round the long, stiff jab. Once

I expect the contest to go in

makes you faster.

and finish him off.

or sixth round.

Steward said yesterday that in

Akinwande: a distinct threat



Tranquillity descends into violence

FROM JEREMY WHITTLE IN MARENNES

THE Tour de France was plunged into controversy yesterday evening when Tom Steels, the Belgian national champion and winner this year of four stages in the Paris-Nice race, was disqualified after a dangerous and ill-tempered sprint finish among the salt flats of Marennes on the French Atlantic

Worse, though, followed soon after at a brief press conference when the race jury announced that Djamolidine Abdoujaparov, 33, from Uzbekistan, a past winner of ten stages of the Tour, had failed a doping control after the finish of the second stage at Vire on Monday. As a result, Abdoujaparov, the first rider to post a positive dope test in the Tour in almost a decade, was also ejected from the

Steels and Erik Zabel, of Germany, the stage winner, were each fined SFr200 (about £30) and relegated to last place on the stage for irregular and dangerous sprinting, but Steels's conduct in the final 200 metres was also considered dangerous, ending his Tour for this

Steels violently hurled a full plastic bottle from his bike at Frederic Moncassin, of France, after apparently being elbowed as he challenged for victory, but was deeply repentant later, saying: "What I did wasn't good for me and wasn't good for cycling, but you have to understand that everything happens in sprints in the heat of the moment. Things happen in the final half-hour in a stage of the Tour de France that you wouldn't believe. People lose sight of what's important and fail to respect each

Just ahead of that feud, Zabel had swept dangerously across the finishing straight to box in Jeroen Blijlevens, from Holland, and Robbie McEwan, from Australia, against the crowd barriers. "I got worked over by Zabel about 200 metres from the line,"

McEwan said. "I was on his wheel and he just took us all right across the road to the barriers. It virtually brought me to a standstill." With Steels and Moncassin out

of the picture, and Mario Cipollini, the specialist sprinter from Italy, struggling to recapture his form after falling heavily early in the day, Zabel pulled clear by some distance alongside the barriers to



short professional career. There was nothing irregular about the sprint," Zabel said after

cross the line first for what seemed to be the sixth Tour victory of his

stepping down from the winner's podium. "I had a little contact with

TOUR DE FRANCE DETAILS

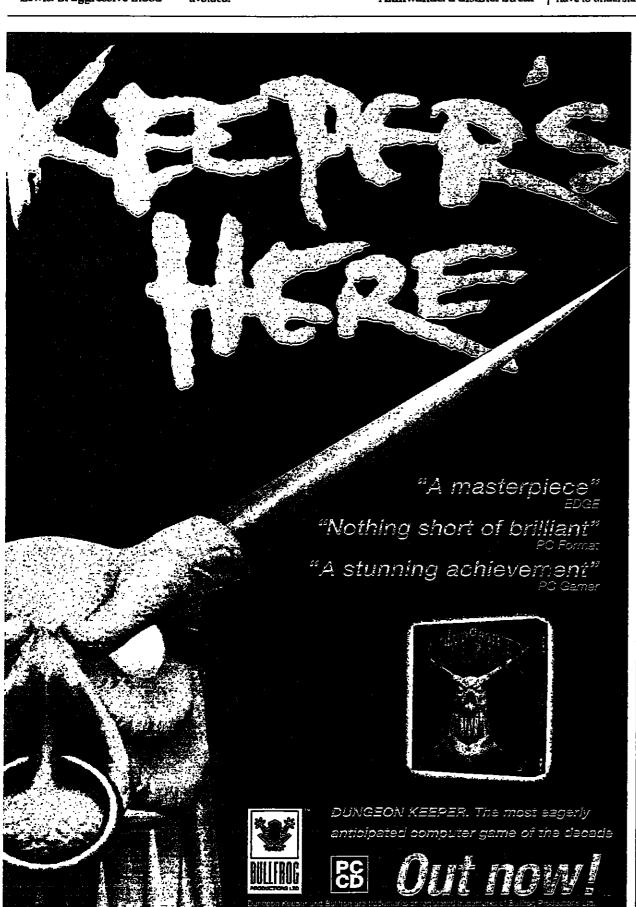
Cipollini, but nothing more than

However, although no rider lodged an official protest, the race judges opted to re-examine the videotape and awarded victory to Blijlevens. "We did not protest." Blijlevens, 25, said. "It was the jury that decided to change the result. It is not the way I like to win, but the jury made a decision and it's fair

Although riders have been disqualified from the tour for illicit help in the mountains and for doping infringements in the past, disqualifications for dangerous and violent conduct are virtually unheard of. However, on a day when there were three significant crashes, perhaps it was inevitable that tempers would finally fray.

In sunshine and showers, the Tour headed west towards the Atlantic through the flatlands north of Bordeaux with large crowds lining the route to celebrate the success on Thursday of Cedric Vasseur, the first Frenchman to wear the leader's yellow jersey in this year's race. Vasseur, though, had to survive a nervous day of punctures, crashes and crosswinds.

John Lelangue, of the Société du Tour de France, said of the stage disqualifications: 'This is very unusual. It is the first time we have disqualified a rider for something like this. Normally it is only for doping offences or for clinging on to team cars in the mountains, but this sort of behaviour is far too



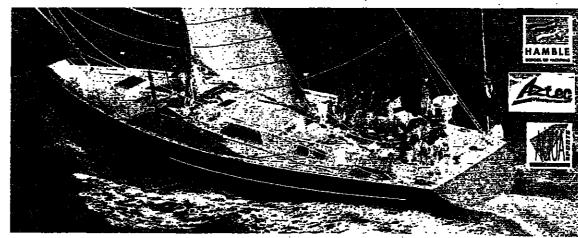
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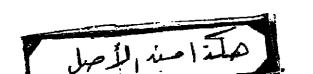


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CHANGING TIM



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Leg-break bowling could be the feature of play to turn events at Lord's today

Salisbury's chance to re-establish Test claim

Surrey hope that some of Warne's magic will rub off to leave opposition in a spin

he symmetry is appeal-ing. Ian Salisbury and Alan Wells, who both left a disintegrating Sussex side last winter, one to further his ambitions at Surrey, the other snapped up by Kent after his ungracious dismissal as captain — sometimes friends and sometimes foes come face to face on the big

violeno

stage at Lord's today.

The big stage is an intriguing place for them to meet, for neither has stood there with comfort. Salisbury's leg spin has been a ready target for predatory batsmen during his staccato international career and Wells's one Test appearance was a failure. Both were on the losing side in the epic NatWest Trophy final of 1993. "I am looking forward to playing against him [Wells]."

Salisbury said. "We have had our differences in the past. We are both strong-willed and stubborn, but respect each other's abilities.

We fell out for a while over his book" - in it, Wells implied that Salisbury's feet left the ground after he played

SURREY'S PATH TO FINAL

GROUP MATCHES: April 28 (h): lost to Kent by four wickets. April May 5 (a): beat Hampshire by 165 runs. May 12 (h): beat Sussex by

QUARTER-FINAL: May 27 (a) beat Essex by six wickets. SEMI-FINAL: June 10 (h): best

for England - but that was both grew up. He realised he had made a mistake and I have made mistakes myself in our relationship. The game is too short not to forgive." Wells will be one of several

Kent batsmen ready to get after Salisbury; whose handling of the pressure will be monitored by those who nurture hopes of England fielding an effective leg spinner in the near future. David Lloyd, the national coach, spoke passionately at Old Trafford earlier this week about the need for this to happen and Salisbury remains the likeliest

Salisbury concedes that he felt burdened by the knowledge that he was joining Surrey as the club's only spinner, but has worked hard to strengthen his game and silence the behind the hand sniggers about him being a "one four-ball an over" man-Guidance and inspiration

in the

has come from an unlikely source in Terry Jenner, the former Australia leg spinner and Shane Warne's guru. At the instigation of David Gilbert, the Surrey coach, Jenner was flown to Cape Town to work with Salisbury during pre-season training and he has stayed in touch.

Terry has been fantastic." Salisbury said. "I last saw him two weeks ago. He watched me bowl against Durham in the NatWest Trophy and we had a session in the nets the next day. He would not let me bowl a googly because he said I bowled too many. He also worked on my loop, which lets you get away with length a lot more." A few days later, Salisbury turned in matchwinning figures of six for 19 against Nottinghamshire. Salisbury was then coming

back from an injury to his spinning finger that had spoilt his early weeks of the season. Going for a catch in the deep. he damaged ligaments and tendons in the finger, which is still swollen. "As Terry ex-plained, your spinning finger is your lifeline," Salisbury said. "If something happens to it, you could be finished."

Naturally, Salisbury has not given up hope of playing for England again. At 27, he may be only four months younger than Warne, and boast only 18 Test wickets to Warne's 252, but hopes, reasonably enough, for another even years at the top.

"I know what is needed to get back into the England frame," he said. "I must bowl not just well but consistently well. On my day, I can be as effective as Warne. When I get the chance to bowl last in a defending a big target, then

Free of injury, Salisbury will have never had it so good. He plays for a high-profile club and one that is prepared, since the signing of Saqlain Mushtaq, the Pakistan off spinner, to produce pitches that turn and bounce. We are working well together." Salisbury said. "Saqlain keeps it tight and gives me a free rein to do what I like at other end." On the eve of his second Lord's final, Salisbury re-

members the disappoint-ments of the first. Warwickshire played magnificently and for the next two years had a brilliant time, while for Sussex things went in the opposite direction." he said. "Whoever wins out of me and Wells today, at least one of us will have won one and

SIMON WILDE



Salisbury has a classic leg-spin action that is thriving at the Oval



نصكدًا من للمل

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Strang's aggression has been the key to his success as a bowler

Strang prepares to go on the attack

Kent look to Zimbabwe's finest to add to a reputation built

fter his success against England in the winter, Paul Strang was described by David Houghton. the Zimbabwe coach, as the fourth-best leg-spinner in the world. Considering that Shane Warne, Mushtaq Ahmed and Anil Kumble were the men Houghton ranked above him, that is not quite

the put-down it appears.

Certainly, few people queried the wisdom of Kent when turned to Strang, 20, as their overseas replacement for Carl Hooper. Canterbury is a fitting venue for him to ply his trade, a ground where Tich Freeman and Doug Wright. two of the greatest English leggies this century, are re-membered fondly. Strang has not disappointed. As well as claiming 34 wickets so far this season, he has scored three half-centuries from the lower order as Kent press for their first county championship

title since 1978. That is for the longer term. At Lord's today, his personal duel with Surrey's assortment of strokemakers will be the most compelling attraction of the Benson and Hedges Cup final and, possibly, the defin-ing period of play. The exploits of Brown, Stewart and the Hollicake brothers are well documented, yet Strang, in taking 12 wickets in the previous rounds, has quietly conceded an average of just

on impressive performances against England last winter father traversed the country 3.26 runs an over. Something as an officer in the Rhodesian has to give, and Strang is no shrinking violet.
"I could never be a bowler police force. Ron Strang, later to become a first-class umpire,

who just contains, whether it is one-day or four-day crick-et." Strang said. "I always attack. Every over I try to get a wicket, but sometimes success the heads of batsmen and just tormenting them."

Away from confrontation, this aggression is replaced by a more modest disposition and a willingness to learn. Warne, Mushtaq and Richie Benaud are among those whose brains have been picked as he seeks to add consistency and variety to his stock leg break.

He said: "In Zimbabwe. there are two first-class sides. Mashonaland and Matabele land. So to come to England and play 17 four-day games within six months is a huge opportunity. Even if I just take 40 wickets and score 400 runs. it will have been worthwhile. People expect me to be a more dangerous bowler as the season wears on and the pitches become harder, but I hope they will remember that this is a long season for me and I will be very tired by the end."

His game was forged as his

taught him the rudiments of the game in gardens at the back of their various homes. Yet it was only when Peter Carlstein, a former South Africa Test player, paid a visit to Cecil John Rhodes school in Gweru that Strang, then aged

science of wrist spin. At university in Cape Town. he came under the totelage of Duncan Fletcher. Now coach at Glamorgan, Fletcher had enshrined himself in Zimbabwean folklore when he led his country to success against Australia in a World Cup

KENT'S PATH TO FINAL

GROUP MATCHES: April 28 (a): beat Surrey by four wickets. April 28 (a): beat Surrey by four wickets. April 30 (h): beat Hampshire by two wickets. May 2 (h): beat Sussex by six wickets. May 5 (h): beat British Universities by four wickets. May 1 (a): v Gloucestershire Match abandoned

QUARTER-FINAL: May 27 (h). beat Warwickshire by lour wickets. SEMI-FINAL: June 10 (h) beat Northamptonshire by 66 runs.

game at Trent Bridge in 1983. He felt that Strang had the ability even in his late teens to embark on a career in South Africa. The prospect of appearing on the United Nations' blacklist discouraged such a course and Strang waited instead until 1993 betore making his first-class debut in his native land.

By then, he was working in the marketing department of a timber firm, whose manage ment was sympathetic to the increasing demands on his cricket. Indeed, he did not leave Border Timbers until after the 1996 World Cup. three years after his Test debut against Sri Lanka.

He became contracted to the Zimbabwe board last August and rewarded the faith of his authority within two months by taking five wickets in an innings against Sri Lanka and completing a maiden Test century against Pakistan. Then came the series against England. He claimed ten wickets in the two drawn tests, including five for 123 in 59 overs in the first innings of the thrilling game in Bulawayo.

"To hold England was very, very significant," he said. "We knew we would get a lot of coverage, so it was a big chance for us to promote the game in Zimbabwe. We managed to get free television links, which meant the locals could watch us. The black people saw us being successful and, by the end of the oneday series |which Zimbabwe won 3-0], a lot of the kids were playing in the streets. Our performances showed to the world that we will not be forgotten."

His own signing for Kent generated much interest in Žimbabwe and he appreciates the importance of performing through the summer, particularly in bigger games such as the final today, to maintain the profile of the sport during an otherwise quiet period.

"We are at a watershed. It will take a lot of unsung work from administrators if we are to continue to penetrate the black communities in Zimbabwe," he said. "White people make up only about one per cent of the population, so you have to learn to live together. Soccer is the first game for the black people, but they are natural athletes and pick up sport very quickly. But it must be long term. Nobody I coach in the immediate future is going to bowl for Zimbabwe. It will be his son or even grandson, brought up in an atmosphere of cricket."

RICHARD HOBSON

ROWING

Britain pull away in **World Cup** pursuit

FROM MIKE ROSEWELL ROWING CORRESPONDENT IN LUCERNE

THE Great Britain coxless four of Steve Redgrave, Matthew Pinsent, Tim Foster and James Cracknell cannot fail to win the World Cup in their boat class. First place in their heat here yesterday assured them direct passage to the final tomorrow, when even sixth place will make them

Not that sixth place looks likely. Pinsent eased his colleagues home ahead of Germany. Even so, the time was one second faster than the other heat, in which a more frantic Romania finished ahead of France and Italy. The only surprise for the British was that they trailed Poland at 500 metres, reached in a purported Imin 18sec. although this time, and that given for 1,000 metres, was

queried by them after the race. Bob Thatcher and Ben Hunt-Davis, Britain's other World Cup leaders, still have it all to do in the coxless pairs. They won with something to spare to reach the semi-finals today but the crew is not complacent. Whoever wins out of us, France. Croatia and Lithuania can win the World Cup," Hunt-Davis said. Croatia were one of Britain's

victims yesterday.
Guin Batten, the Great Britain woman sculler, experienced kinder "seeding" yesterday than she did in Paris and took advantage, qualifying in first place. Greg Searle, Britain's Henley-winning sculler, was less fortunate, coming up against Iztok Cop, of Slovenia, the world champion and World Cup winner. Searle finished in second place and faces a repechage today.

The women's coxless pair of Dot Blackie and Cath Bishop and the double scull of Gillian Lindsay and Miriam Batten will face repechages today, too, but their prospects look good. Both found themselves in the fastest heats yesterday, finishing second and third respectively.

Tracy Langlands and Sarah Birch, survivors of recent women's lightweight trials, made a first international appearance in the lightweight doubles, achieving second to book a semi-final place. Unlike their heavyweight

colleagues, however, they were in the slowest heat. The Britain heavyweight eight had a tense wait for their evening heat after racing was halted in the late afternoon because of one of Lucerne's spectacular storms. The British found themselves up against Australia, unbeaten since their appearance in Europe three weeks ago. Britain could not break the trend. The British lightweight

eight, fresh from their nail-biting Henley success, cruised to a win, and direct passage to the final, in their heat vesterday. Jason Keys, the stroke, appeared to have his men under control and John Deakin, the ebullient cox who won two Henley medals, was inspirational saving his

• MCC celebrate the bridging of big gap

SHENLEY PARK (final day of by. by the time they leave, they three): MCC beat Pakistan A by ten wickets

MEMBERS of MCC do not

usually need an excuse to blow the top off a bottle of champagne, but they were given one yesterday anyway when the club recorded its first firstclass victory since beating . Essex, the champion county, at the start of the 1984 season. But while the game's founding club had cause to celebrate, there was a touch of concern for the touring team

shire, have now lost two games in succession. Tr's always disappointing to lose but we were up against a good team and I think the performance graph is improv-ing," Agha Zahid, the Paki-

who, after a defeat by Derby-

stani coach, said. Discipline was certainly the missing factor when they allowed themselves to be bowled out for 119 on the first morning. They did, however, keep the game going until just before lunch on the final day.

In mitigation, the Asia Cup tournament has deprived them of an experienced core, making this a development tour more than anything else.
It is a very young side with very little experience of firstclass cricket and none at all of English conditions. Hopefulwill be better players and closer to the step up to Test cricket," Zahid said. Of the players on show,

Shoaib Akhtar, the feisty 21year-old fast bowler from Rawalpindi, who took five for 64 in the MCC first innings. looks the prime candidate for the move up.

MCC bowlers, led by

Hamish Anthony, who had match figures of ten for 115. took the last five wickets to allow Asif Din and Mark Lavender to knock off the 15 runs required before lunch. PAKISTAN A: First Innings 119 (Salim Etah) 53; H A G Anthony 6 for 34).

53; H.A.G. Arthony 6 tor 34).

Second Irrings
All Narpi c G W Flower b Bademhorst ... 114
Salim Etahi c Frances b Jeh ... 34
Rane Clayyum tow b Anthony ... 15
"Mehanmed Wasim low b Anthony ... 10
Mujehol Jemethed e Lavender b Jeh ... 12
Llaved Cadr low b Jeh ... 12
Llaved Cadr low b Jeh ... 12
Irland Cadr low b Jeh ... 13
Irland Rahmood c Lavender b Anthony 31
Irland Rahmood c Lavender b Anthony 11
All Hussan Roul c Anthony b Bademhorst ... 5
Shoab Airthan not out 22
Etatas (b 1, lb 4, w 1, nb 16) 22
Total ... 257

BOWLING: Francis 10-2-20-0. Anthony 25-8-79-4: Baderhorst 20-6-48-3: Foley 19-5-52-0, Jeh 12-3-37-3: Anthunton 3-1-5-0, G W Flower 5-1-10-0 MCC: First Innings 382 (K L T Arthunton 200 not out, G W Flower 78; Shoelb Akinter 5 for 84, Azhar Mehrmood 4 for 90).

Second Innings Asit Din not out



Leading lights: Lord's hosted a rare gathering yesterday, as all nine captains of the Test-playing countries convened to debate the current issues of the game. Their recommendations will be put before the inaugural meeting today of the new cricket committee of the International Cricket Council at a West End hotel.

The Test captains have only met formally once before, during the political imbroglio that preceded the World Cup 18 months ago, and the timing and venue of the meeting yesterday gave them a more relaxed opportunity to present their case on a variety of concerns confronting the game

High on the captains' agenda was the volume of international cricket now being played around the world. In 1996, 4! Test matches were staged, along with III one-day internationals, of which Pakistan, astonishingly, took part in 42. Views on the imminent establishment of a

world championship for Test cricket, and on the future structure and frequency of the World Cup, were also being sought. Other subjects included the extended use of television replays to adjudicate on the validity of catches and an Australian proposal that grounds with floodlights should be free to use them to expedite play in Test cricket during periods of poor light.

The captains are, from the left, back row: Hansie Cronje (South Africa), Wasim Akram (Pakistan), Alistair Campbell (Zimpabwe), Courtney Walsh (West Indies). Stephen Fleming (New Zealand). Front: Sachin Tendulkar (India), Mark Taylor (Australia). Michael Atherton (England). Arjuna Ranatunga (Sri Lanka).

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GOLF: MONTGOMERIE AMONG THE OBJECTORS AS SLOW PLAY MARS THIRD ROUND AT LOCH LOMOND

Rocca rolls past rest's rhythm blues

By JOHN HOPKINS **GOLF CORRESPONDENT**

WHEN your income leaps from £135 per month to £9,200. life, as well as the bank balance, takes on a different complexion. When you grip a golf club for hours each day instead of placing your hands in chemicals, it is easy to appreciate how things have taken a turn for the better.

This is what has happened to Costantino Rocca, and so some of the complaints of other golfers hardly register who remembers what it was like when he worked for a pittance in a factory near Bergamo 20 years ago.

For example, the slow play that has dogged competitors at Loch Lomond in the Gulfstream World Invitational has caused Colin Montgomerie considerable distress - and rightly so.

We have lost the whole idea of three-hour rounds," Montgomerie said after taking one hour and 47 minutes to play six holes and 212 hours for nine. We have got to do something about it and police the situation better."

It has not bothered Rocca. however. Not even when he birdied two successive holes and then had to wait for 40 minutes on the next tee because he and Retief Goosen were playing in a two-ball amid a field full of three-balls did it bring anything like a furrow to the Rocca brow. He is the most balanced of men. "I am better known in

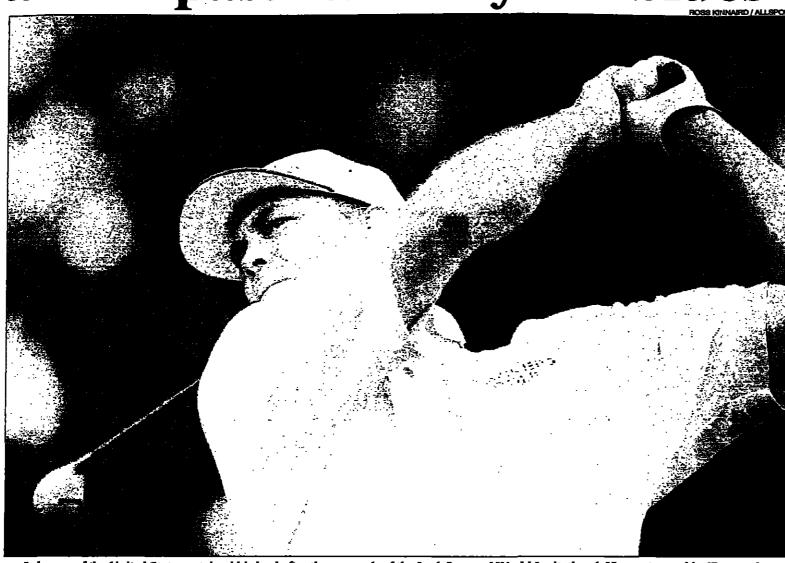
Britain, Germany, America. everywhere than I am in Italy." Rocca said, laughing. Golf is still not popular in He is doing his best to remedy that situation by being

one of the steadiest and most successful golfers in Europe. The man who earned £1.500 in his last year at that factory home more than £500,000 in winnings from the European Tour last year.

His 66 yesterday, which took him to six under par, is another step back to the sort of form that he demonstrated earlier in the year, though he remains a long way behind Tom Lehman, the tournament leader, who is 15 under par. two strokes ahead of Pierre

Until the end of May, Rocca was on target for his third appearance in the Ryder Cup. He is technically very sound, as Bernard Gallacher pointed consistent. "His swing will last and last," Gallacher remarked.

Then, however, Rocca in-



Lehman, of the United States, retained his lead after three rounds of the Loch Lomond World Invitational. He went round in 67 yesterday

and, last week, he hurt a rib in Ireland. "When I hurt my shoulder. I could not swing back," Rocca, who is ninth in the Ryder Cup table and needs a couple more substantial pay days to confirm his place in Severiano Ballesteros's team for Valderrama, said. "Now I

There is nothing much the matter with Montgomerie's backswing or downswing. It is his temperament that sometimes seems a little frail. Ernie who played Montgomerie, remarked that the Scotsman seemed to be getting a bit out of rhythm at the slowness of play over their

have hurt my ribs, I cannot

swing through.

front nine holes. Perhaps this was why Montgomerie had a relatively lacklustre 70 to be four under par on a day when scoring was very low. Mark James had a 65, as did Els. Peter Hedblom and Lee W stwood had 66s while Payne Stewart came home in 30. On a day when the second round had to be completed before the third

played 27 holes in nine under

The only drawback to staging an event the week before the Open is that there is a slightly false air about it. Such an event is not so much "after the Lord Mayor's Show" as

THIRD ROUND

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated

 M. P. Minchell Edy, 72, 70; P. U. Johransson
 Swey, 72, 71, 68; R. Razlierty, 69, 68, 74, 212.
 J. Hawkes (SA), 72, 70, 70; W. Westher (SA)
 72, 70, 70; R. Russell 70, 70, 72; C. Suneson
 (Sp), 70, 72; N. Faido 67, 73, 72; D. Clarke
 72, 88, 72; M. A. Juriériez. (Sp), 69, 73, 72
 733; H. Clark, 72, 70, 71; E. Carnomaca (ft), 72. jured a shoulder in Germany round could begin. Fulke 70, 71; P Esles 68, 74, 71, S Arnes (Tim) 70,

"Perhaps I am thinking about next week too much." Montgomerie said. "I am not putting very well and, yes, I think I have one eye on Troon. It is hard to take this event in isolation. I am playing well overall and I am happy about

Els pointed out that, in the United States, players are not warned before they are penalised for slow play and play does seem to be more brisk over there". He said he thought that a one or twostroke penalty was tougher than a financial penalty. "A lot of players can pay \$500, but score is a different matter," he

Slow play is one of the bugbears of the European Tour at the moment. The players do not like it because it disrupts their rhythm. It is no fun for spectators, either. It havoc with television schedules, and, these days, that is an increasingly important consideration. It is high time that the Tour got to

Rose and Moodie lead Scots into last four

SCOTLAND easily overcame England to reach the semifinals of the European women's team championship at the Nordcenter Club, in Finland, yesterday. Wales also moved into the last four, for only the third time, while Spain, the defending champions, lost their title.

Scotland, the runners-up in Milan two years ago, laid the foundations for their victory by winning both foursomes,

tages at the turn disappear. champion, and Hilary Monaphan came through at the 19th after Elaine Ratcliffe and Karen Stupples, the Curtis Janice Moodie and Lesley Nicholson emerged as winners on the 18th green. It was then plain sailing as Rose and Moodie won their singles to ensure victory. Scotland now meet France, who beat Spain. Wales were celebrating last night after securing a rare matchplay victory in these championships. Having been in the semi-finals on only three previous occasions, it was a particular delight for them to defeat Denmark 4-3 and set up a meeting today with Sweden, who recovered

from a 2-0 foursomes deficit to

red the foursomes, but victory on the final green by Eleanor Pilgrim over Camilla Faaborg-Andersen, who was forced to take a penalty drop when her drive found thick grass beside a fairway rock, The other two points came from Natalee Evans and Vicki Thomas, 42, a veteran campaigner of the past 12 charn-

Neumann puts back clock with opening onslaught ROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN PORTLAND, OPEN-

LISELOTTE NEUMANN was the one who started it all, the first great player to roll off the Swedish production line that churns out champions the way Wales used to conjure up stand-off halves.

Neumann, 31, succeeded Laura Davies as the US Women's Open champion in 1988 to inspire a generation of Swedes and, in the 52nd Women's Open here at Pumpkin Ridge, with Annika Sorenstam, the defending suffering. Neumann was reminding everyone that the magic was still

She worked ferociously on her game - this is her sixth tournament in a row — in preparation for this event and a first round of 67, four under par, which equalled her best score in an Open, was the

On a damp, difficult day, she did not drop a shot and led by a stroke from a trio of Americans, Deb Richard, Susie Redman and Kelly Robbins, and Se Ri Pak, a superstar in South Korea but just starting to make people take notice elsewhere.

Yesterday, with the weather still overcast and fickle early on. Neumann resumed in the same vein, with birdies at the 1st and 3rd, to move to six under par, two strokes ahead of Richard and Alison Nicholas, of England, who went out in 33, three under.

Before the off, Nicholas said that she found the Witch Hollow course long and tough, but produced a first round of 70 that included birdies at the 9th (where Sorenstam, who had an opening round of 77, took a triple-bogey seven), 10th and 12th and two bogeys, at the 6th and

At the 12th, a picturesque but tricky par-three of 127 yards, Nicholas hit the flag with an eight-iron and ended eight feet away. Mark Fulcher, her caddie, was certain that he was about to collect \$1,500 from the hole-inone pool but had to be content with the birdie two instead.

Opens are about patience and Nicholas, Neumann and blemish in a round of 69 was a double-bogey seven at the last. the result of a bad drive and an amateurish top into a wetlands hazard in front of

quality.
Johnson is not always the soul of patience but even the disappointing finish did not upset her unduly. "I hardly made a bad swing for 16 holes and there's no point in dropping your head and pretending you're upset. The only thing you don't do on the first day of the Open is play yourself out of contention. really, and two under par is there," she said.

her nose, embodied such a

Sorenstam refused to write herself out of the reckoning. despite her worst round of the



Nicholas: patience

year - she could not remember the last time she had gone out in 41, to be five over par for nine holes. Susie Berning won in 1972 after starting with a 79, so all is not lost. Sorenstam faced the massed cameras and fulfilled her press obligations with class and charm. "I haven't given up yet," she said. "I know how to play this golf course and I'm not going to leave here until I beat it." Laura Davies, who had a 75.

tried to be similarly bullish but was less convincing. "I had two double-bogeys and if I can cut those out and get back to par by Sunday, I'll probably have half a chance," she said. But she added that her confidence was at its lowest ebb for several years - she did not dare to use her driver and was struggling with her long irons.

The ray of hope was that her putting was much improved - 28 putts only - thanks to a much on her stroke. "I concentrated on keeping my left side still and it worked." she said. Now for the driving

FOOTBALL

Celtic seek truce with Di Canio

By Our Sports Staff

PAOLO Di CANIO, the errant Celtic forward, is expected to make his peace with club and play in a tournament in Ire-land next week. Di Canio is due to have talks with Wirn Jansen, the new Celtic coach, in the next few days and the club is hopeful that his differences can be settled then.

Jock Brown, the general manager, said that the former AC Milan player had indicated that he will take part in a four-team competition in Dublin on Tuesday and

"Wim is not arriving in Glasgow until Saturday evening because he had some business to clear up in Holland," Brown said. "I expect he will meet up with Paolo

Di Canio, 29, refused to join now resumed training, albeit

Celtic play Derry City on Tuesday at Lansdowne Road, while Newcastle United meet PSV Eindhoven. The winners and losers play-off the follow-ing night. Celtic's large following in Ireland were denied the chance to see the Italian when the club last played in Dublin two months ago because he had been suspended by the club over an outburst in his

dispute over contract terms. Brown would not confirm

ATHLETICS

Heel injury rules ailing **Edwards out of key trials**

By David Powell, athletics correspondent

WHILE Jonathan Edwards BAF spokeswoman. Two won his world title in Gothenburg two years ago as the climax to a fabulous spell of record-breaking triple jumping, he will have to defend it from a position of questionable competitive fitness. Edwards withdrew yesterday from the three-day Great Britain trials for the world championships in Athens, which began last night.

The heel injury that Ed-wards sustained while winning his event at the European Cup in Munich three weeks ago has not cleared yet. Although the selection criteria for Athens demands that athletes who wish to be picked take part in their chosen event at the trials, the "exceptional circumstances" rule will be employed to name Edwards

in the team next week. Edwards, 31, was Britain's only gold medal winner in Gothenburg and was runnerup to Kenny Harrison, of the United States, at the Olympic Games last year. The exceptional circumstances relating to him here are that he has produced a doctor's note saying that, while he is fit to train. he is not able to compete.

Steve Calvert, a Great Britain team doctor, informed the British Athletic Federation (BAF) yesterday, that "competitive activity was inadvisable." according to Jayne Pearce, the

Silver for Allahgreen

ked her claim for a place in the Great Britain team for the world championships in Athens next month when she won the silver medal in the 100 metres hurdles at the European under-23 championships in Turku, Finland, yesterday. Allahgreen, from Liverpool, was beaten by 0.06sec by Irina Korotoya, of

years ago, Edwards withdrew from the trials citing injury but, two days later, set a world record in Salamanca, Spain. There will be no repeat of the controversy.

A spokesman for the Salamanca meeting, which is on Monday, confirmed yesterday that Edwards had withdrawn. Whereas in 1995 Edwards set a succession of British and world records, and wind-aided world bests, prior to Gothenburg, he faces going to Athens with only three competitions behind him, and seven jumps, in the preceding seven

Malcolm Arnold, Britain's performance director, who had spoken with Edwards, said that the athlete "is wor-



Edwards: training

DIANE ALLAHGREEN sta-The men's 110m hurdles final will be re-run after the jury of appeal viewed a video record-Busemann, from Germany, the apparent winner, had made a false start. Ross Baillie, from Scotland, and Damian Greaves, a Newham and Essex Beagle, finished fifth and eighth respectively.

ried it is not going away as fast as he had hoped". Explaining how Edwards had been able to train but not compete, Arnold said: "When he lands in competition, he is taking something like six to eight times his own body weight on that heel whereas, in training. he can do weights and sprint without putting the full force

Although Edwards will be short of competition going into Athens, he can at least reflect on his European Cup-winning jump of 17.74 metres, which remains the longest in the world this year.

Edwards and Roger Black are the only two luminaries missing from the trials, from which between 70 and 80 athletes will book their tickets for Athens. Black's selection is less certain because his event. the 400 metres, is the most competitive in Britain. If three men run well inside 45 seconds, there may be no place

for him. The first two are guaranteed selection, the third athlete in each event chosen at the discretion of the selectors. Steve Backley, who has missed meetings in Stockholm and Oslo in the past week, is fit to return in the javelin. Backley had been suffering

swollen glands but is now keen to return to competition.

Having had a two-week break will not be a bad thing going into the trials," Backley said. I will be perfect happy going to Athens not having

prove a blessing in disguise." Mick Hill may fancy his chances of scoring a rare victory over Backley. While Backley may be slightly ringrusty, Hill was second in Stockholm on Monday. throwing in excess of 85 metres and finishing ahead of Jan Zelezny, the world and

but did so only by a whisker Wales and Denmark shaafter seeing three-hole advan-

Alison Rose, the British

SPORTS LETTERS

taking three months' leave

From Mr Jim Cumbes
Sir, We were disappointed to read Michael Henderson's comments on the day-night cricket match at Old Trafford between Lancashire and Yorkshire (Line and Length, June

Surely with the World Cup less than two years away in this country, now is not a bad time to see if floodlit cricket can work. If not, well we tried. Hyping the game up is done merely to emphasise the dif-ference of this type of game and to try to widen the game's audience. After all, are we not supposed to be in the entertainment business and not just

a private gentlemen's club? Day Night Promotions is a one-man company, formed by a great cricket enthusiast, Mohan Kripalani, who, it is true, is based in London. His fanaticism on cricket em-braces all forms, including four-day championship as well as five-day Test cricket, but, inspired by what he has seen in Australia and more recently in India, he has been itching to see if day-night cricket would work in this

To that end, he has sunk his life savings into this project,

prize-money to the teams taking part. Far from "badgering" the clubs into putting the game on, he has looked at the success of both Lancashire and Yorkshire in the one-day form of the game, together with the support the clubs get, and approached us at Old Trafford to find out if we were

from work to promote the

game and offering substantial

the view that if it is a disaster, he still has his home, a good job, two lovely young children and a very understanding wife. Neither will it dim his love of the game. We at Old Trafford will be doing our best to help him to ensure this indeed profitable.

I would even extend an invitation to Mr Henderson to be my guest at the game, but I suspect he may turn it

Old Trafford.

Manchester 16. Something wrong

From Mr Henry Wickens Sir, I agree with Michael Henderson (Line and Length, July 8) that "a highly developed country like this one should not have to earn acclaim on any sports field to feel

However, from another perspective, living as I do in a 300,000 - which won an Olympic gold medal in 1952 and the Tour de France some been quite properly congratulating itself on these achievements ever since - I feel that a country of some 50 million ought to be able to produce a few world-class sportspeople on a regular basis. If it doesn't,

Mr Kripalani bravely takes

Yours sincerely, JIM CUMBES, Sales and Marketing Manager, Lancashire County Cricket

it must be doing something I may add that I was quite

alarmed to find how many of his "reasons for taking pride in being English" I agreed with, though I would add change-ringing and canal barges, and correct his choice of beer to Brakspear's Best.

Yours faithfully, HENRY WICKENS, L-7681 Waldbillig. Luxembourg. HWickens@europarl.eu.int

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Day-night cricket worth a run Jockeys merit better treatment

From Mr R. J. Shepherd Sir. No doubt Kieren Fallon made a serious tactical error in the riding of Bosra Sham in the Coral-Eclipse Stakes at worrying. This, of course. takes nothing away from the Sandown Park last Saturday. although it seemed to me by no means certain that they would have won but for that

However, I hate to read or hear of public criticism of jockeys by their trainers in the terms evidently used by Henry Cecil after the race (report, July 7). Cecil might, of course, legitimately express his annoyance and disappointment in private, but when speaking in public he should, I suggest, remember three things: 1. Jockeys every day exhibit

great physical courage in race-riding. They risk their necks, which trainers do not. 2. Jockeys have to make splitsecond decisions of decisive consequence during races, which trainers do not.

3. Professional errors by jockeys in major races are immediately apparent to thousands of people and immediately vulnerable to comment by the media. Once again this does not apply to trainers, whose professional failures can be quietly covered up at home.

I would hope that trainers will try to express loyalty to their jockeys in public, and remember that those jockeys are at a sharper end of racing than they are.

Yours faithfully, R. J. SHEPHERD, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

From Mr Steve Miller Sir. In reply to Simon Barnes's slowly-run race and an appail-ingly misjudged piece of race-riding conspired to rob Bosra Sham of her rightful victory in the Coral-Eclipse Stakes. That Bosra Sham would have won Cecil, suggested) beyond ques-tion. The fact is that she didn't

I quite agree with Barnes that all jockeys (and indeed all but if Kieren Fallon truly

believes there is nothing he could have done to rectify the mess that he got the filly into. in a five-horse race, it is very

filly herself; she is still every bit as good as ever she was. While Fallon has undoubted ability as a jockey, he has proved conclusively that he is not the man for all occasions. We suspected it after his riding of Sleepytime in the Fred Darling Stakes at Newbury now the irrefutable evidence is laid before us, to

OUT COST. Bosra Sham will be back, in the Juddmonte International next month and hopefully to retain her crown in the Dubai Champion Stakes, although it

seems without Fallon. However, I sincerely hope that connections of the champion filly will resist the temptation to tackle the likes of Pilsudski, Helissio and Singspiel, in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, or indeed in any group one race run at 12 furlongs. Bosra Sham is an exceptional filly (the best I have seen at a mile to ten furlongs), but to win a group one race at 12 furlongs may well be beyond even her.

Yours faithfully, STEVE MILLER, 32a St Andrew's Road. Enfield, Middlesex.

Family treble

From Mrs Susan Hillyard Sir, Much has been made of the fact that it was so many years since two Britons reached the men's singles quarter-finals at Wimbledon. But when, if ever, have all three children of one family as Byron, Wayne and Cara Black, of Zimbabwe, this year played there in the same championships? Yours sincerely, SUSAN HILLYARD.

Laburnum House. Great Longstone,

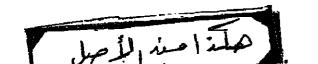
Wednesday.

Celtic on a pre-season tour of Holland last week, claiming he was not fit enough after a virus and he also left Glasgow for two days. However, he has

7.3

Paolo trained again this on his own. morning, keeping the promise that he made in midweek that he was just taking two days rest period," Brown said. "I expect him to go to Ireland. He always said he would, it was only the trip to Holland he had a problem with."

reports that Henrik Larsson, a forward, would be joining the club from Feyenoord for £2 million.



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FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN KIEV

THE score may be level but the honours belonged to the home nation after Great Britain and Ukraine won one match apiece in their Davis Cup tie here yesterday. Tim Henman required more than three hours to dispose of Andrei Rybalko, ranked 350th in the world, before Andrei Medvedev dispensed a clay-court lesson to Greg Rusedski in the second rubber.

The tie would have been beyond redemption but for Henman's narrow victory against an obdurate opponent. As it is, the match is perfectly poised — although Medvedev's mastery of difficult conditions was such that the hosts must be favoured to prevail.

Medvedev teams up with Dimitri Poliakov for the doubles match against the provisional pairing of Henman and Neil Broad today. Medvedey then squares up to Henman in the singles tomorrow; he must be defeated at least once if Great Britain is to carry the day.

That appears the formidable assignment in the light of Medvedev's mood. It was greatly to Rusedski's

credit that he claimed the third set, for the Ukrainian, ranked seven-teenth in the world, threatened to inflict untold damage on Rusedski's confidence. Medvedev's array of shots is vast. He bestrode the little stadium like a Colossus, imparting dip and swerve to the ball with the dexterity of a magician.

Henman's demeanour betraved his listless mind until he took hold of the match towards the end of the second set. A blustery wind compounded his difficulties in reading a court of distinctly uneven bounce. His service again caused him problems, and he became increasingly irritated at the proximity of a: camera crew not remotely inclined could because Andrei wouldn't let to pay the players homage. It was no surprise to see him broken in game overhead effectively cost him the Lloyd, Great Britain's Davis Cup

opening set. Henman's battling qualities are becoming legend but his problems were entirely of his own creation. He survived three break points in the second set before Rybalko. previously watertight on his own

serve, capitulated at 45 like a ruptured battleship. Henman, ranked No 20 in the world, broke to love to level the match and started set three with a flurry of winning first services. Only then did he enforce a chasm in class spanning 330 places on the rankings comput-

It was not long, however, before Henman reverted to type. A shocking service game, comprising four unforced errors, cost him the fourth set, which he concluded by berating the umpire to incur himself a warning. Fortunately, he steadied the ship, a break in game six of the deciding set proving sufficient for him to prevail 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.

Winning is the most important thing but I can't take a great deal of satisfaction in my performance," he said. "I need to pick up the mental intensity. I am a little bit flat."

Irrespective of the outcome of the doubles, Henman surely recognises the importance of the rubber with Medvedev tomorrow. He may be playing to keep the tie alive, a daunting prospect given Med-vedev's outstanding display against Rusedski. If Rusedski looked demoralised with the vagaries of the bounce on a court of park-like qualities, Medvedev's superiority was absolute.

When Rusedski, striving to avoid a second-set whitewash at 0-5, won the game to love, it marked only the second time he held his service in the match. And when his opponent responded with a love game of his own. Rusedski had taken just seven points against the Medvedev service in two one-sided sets.

Rusedski opened the next with an act of defiance. He delivered three aces and immediately broke Medvedev with some superb volleying — albeit at full stretch. However, the sheer force of Medvedev's shots could not be resisted. He promptly swept away with the fourth set, and with it the match, 6-1, 6-1, 2-6, 6-2, after one hour 35 minutes of ferocious hitting.

Rusedski's assessment of his opponent was unerringly accurate. "I don't think I played as well as I me," he reflected. "He is a great player on a court made to suit him. team captain, will be pleased to resume at parity today. He criticised the state of the court, suggesting it was not fit for tennis of this calibre, although he agreed that the plethora of bad bounces did not favour one side or the other.



Nick Skelton guides Virtual Village Tinka's Boy to third place in the Royal International Classic Grand Prix at Hickstead yesterday

Whitaker prevails for old order

By JENNY MACARTHUR

WHERE are all the new British showjumpers? That was the question being asked at the Royal International Horse Show at Hickstead yesterday when, for the second successive time, established team riders dominated the international team trial - a competition designed to open up the selection process for the British team.

The trial, which was incorporated in the Royal International Classic Grand Prix, was won com-fortably by Michael Whitaker on Virtual Village Ashley. The next best Briton was Nick Skelton, who finished third on Virtual Village Tinka's Boy, behind Ireland's European champion, Peter Charles, on T'Aime. Whitaker and Skelton have been regular members of the British team since the early

Windsor in May also failing to produce any significant new partnerships, it looks as though the usual four - Whitaker, his brother, John, Skelton and Geoff Billington - will make up the British team for the European championships in

August. As one spectator observed: The selectors are going through the motions but no one is going to trouble the top four."

At least the course for yesterday's event proved more of a test than Windsor's - where there had not even been a water jump. Designed by Jon Doney, the first round contained 12 fences which were big, wide and typically Hickstead. Helped by the excellent going in the arena. 12 riders achieved clear rounds.

Surprisingly, John Whitaker and his Aachen Grand Prix winner. Welham, were not among them. Whitaker, who is likely to gain one of the two automatic team places ithe selectors have to take only the top three from the team trials) incurred four faults at the Hickstead planks, fence seven.

Skelton, who had the disadvantage of going first in the jump-off on he is likely to ride in the European championships — confirmed the scope of this talented eight-year-old with a second faultless round over a shorter but significantly bigger course. A thrilling spectacle ensued as successive riders then attempted

HICKSTEAD RESULTS

BOYAL INTERNATIONAL CLASSIC GRAND PRDC 1, Virtual Village Ashley (M Whitaker, GB) 0 faults in 54.50sec; 2, T'Airne (P Charles, Ire) 0 in 55.56; 3, Virtual Village Tinka's Boy (N Skelton, GB) 0 in 57.50

THE ROYAL INTERNATIONAL SPEED CHALL-ENGE: 1, LBH Fedor (P Goerink, Holl) 55.36sec. 2. Virtual Wilgap Hurtler's Luvel I J Wintslater GB) 55.37: 3, Convert Hill Diemond (R Splame, Ire) 55.54. OSBORNE REFRIGERATION SUPREME RIDING HORSE: Champion: P Duncan's Charsmatic (J Webbar) Reserve: R Creed-Miles's Original Soin (R Ramsay).

to improve on Skelton's time of 57.50sec.

Dietmar Gugler, of Germany, who works for Paul Schockemohle, was clear but more than two seconds adrift on his careful mare. Donna Carara.

Di Lampard, a leading contender for the Queen Elizabeth II Cup tomorrow, was nearly a second faster on Abbervail Dream but Whitaker and Ashley, then put the memory of their disappointing performance in the rain-drenched Aachen Grand Prix firmly behind them with a fast and stylish round in 54.59.

Charles, who confirmed yester-

day that he will not be defending his European title in Germany next month as a result of the leg injury his top horse, La Ina, sustained at Aachen, matched Whitaker's time over the first half of the course on T'Aime, his French-bred gelding, but then dropped behind to finish

second in 55.56.

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Afterwards, Charles, a former British rider who assumed Irish nationality in 1991 because he found it impossible to break through into the British team, said he wished that there had been team trials then. "They would also have had more meaning then because there were plenty of good riders and horses about - now there don't

seem to be any British riders

troubling the top four." Malcolm Pyrah, the chairman of the British Show Jumping Association international committee and instrumental in drawing up the ruies for the four team imais — said he was not surprised that the "same picture kept emerging." "It's in the producing of horses where our riders are going wrong." he said. They're in too much of a hurry and don't bring them on carefully

RUGBY LEAGUE

Wigan pair beaten by **World Cup** winners

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

JASON ROBINSON and Gary Connolly were members of the Rest of the World side beaten 28-8 by Australia, the rugby league World Cup win-

ners, in Brisbane yesterday. The Wigan pair should really have been with their Super League colleagues in Paris but, in the scramble to sign contracts two years ago, they committed themselves to the Australian Rugby League (ARL). They flew home last night to prepare for the meet-ing with Brisbane Broncos in the world club championship

The makeshift Rest of the World side in Brisbane also included former luminaries of the British game such as Craig Innes. Lee Jackson and Harvey Howard and, for a while, it looked as though the assembled cast might even

produce an upset.
They went ahead after 23 minutes, thanks to some brilliant improvisation by Adrian Lam, their captain and a Papua New Guinea international. He sold five outrageous dummies before creating an opportunity for Darren Rameka, who spun out of a tackle

Ten minutes later, Tim Brasher, the Australia full back, scored the first of his two tries, to put the Australians ahead. With only seconds of the first half remaining, however, Lam launched a hanging kick that Robinson knocked back for Jarrod McCracken, the New Zealand international, to score. The Rest were ahead S-6.

Robinson was in excellent form, showing just why Wig-an worked so hard to negotiate a way out of the contract that would have tied him totally to the ARL He almost scored in the third minute of the match. when he leapt high to take another Lam kick, and he prevented two certain tries with his cover defence.

In the second half, however, The Australians were not to be denied. Brasher went over for his second try four minutes after the restart and then, in the space of 15 minutes, they ran in three more scores that despite a valiant effort t Robinson to stop Terry Hill. the Australia centre, for the

We didn't have much ball in the second half." Lam said. "You can't win matches like that."

Celtical truceri Di Casi

BASEBALL . NATIONAL LEAGUE: Chicago Cubs 2 St. Louis 3: Florida 8 Philadelphia 7; Philiburgh 0 Houston 7; Affenta 7 New York Metr 10; Cotorado 5 San Diego 11; Los Angeles 11. San Francisco D. AMERICAN LEAGUE: Celdend 4 Anshelm 8, Boston 8 Toronto 7 (11nns): New York Yankaes 10 Detroit 3; Chicago White Sox 6 Kansas City 3; Mannesota 8 Cleveland 2; Seattle 12 Texas 9. CRICKET

CHICKE I

SECOND XI CHAMPONES IP. Third day
of four. Northempton: Northemptonshre
556: Essex 224 and 254 (S.J.W. Andrew 50).
Northemptonshre win by an innings and 78
runs. Flaal day of these: Chemberfield.
Derbyshire 371-9 dec and 241-5 dec;
Durtern 301-2 dec and 105. Derbyshire win
by 205 runs. Hastingdent Lancastris 365-7
dec and 221-9 dec (M.E. Harvey 58: E.J.
Startord 4-ful5); Kent 204 end 254 (G.
Keedy 6-75). Lancastris win by 125 runs.
Trant Bridger, Surray. 174 and 374-1 (N.
Shahad 200 not out, D.J. Bednell 150 not
out); Nottinghamstrine 387-8 dec. Match
drawn. Clevedon Somerset 246 and 207-9
dec. Hampshire 137 and 135 (S. Macgall
7-21). Somerset win by 180 runs. Hove:
Sussex 363 and 303-5 (M.T. P. Person 144, J.
P. Pyemont (65); Gloucestershire 331-3 dec
and 252 (R.I.Dawson 74). Susset win by 113
runs. Harvogate: Yodsshire 335-6 dec and
176-8 dec. Middlesex 195 and 156 (I.D.
Fieher 5-47). Virichne win by 161 runs.

CROQUET

HURLINGHAM: British Open Chempion-ethic: Singles: Quarter-Smale; R I Fusional bt C N Farming +122po, +170p, +110p, R Barnford bt R J Brown +281p, +130po, +80; C D Clarke bt C Southern +280p, +25, +24 Doubles: Third round Johnson and Morrow 4, +1, +12; Barntord and Muliner bt Lidyard and Trimmer 4,

EQUESTRIANISM

WORLD RANGINGS: 1, D O'Connor (US) 2160s: 2, M King (GB) 217; 3, M Todd (N2) 204, 4, W Fox-Pat (GB) 178; 5, B Tad (N2) 156, 6, A Nicholson (N2) 164; 7, H Tomphers (N2) 140; 8, B Davidson (US) 138; 9, A Hernan (Swel 129; 10, P Furrel (GB) 125.

GLIDING

ST AUBAN, France: World champion-ships: No flying on eighth day. Standard (seventh day, revised positions; 448km six legs. 29 scoted completions of 39]: 1. P. (Severah Gay, revision positions, or selegs, 29 secreted complations of 39]: 1, P. Hartmann (Austria, LSB) 127.3(ph., 954pts; 2, B. Solen (Holl, LSB) 127.3(ph., 954pts; 2, B. Solen (Holl, LSB) 127.3(ph., 954pts; 3, H. Hammanne (Austria, LSB) 125.7, 937; 4, H. Wess; (Ger, LSB) 124.4, 922; 5, D. Jacobs (US, LSB) 123.2, 908; 9, A. Daws; (GS, LSB) 120.7, 881; 16, Mrefel (GB, LSB) 16.4, 808 30 equal, B. Sprachter, Neifonsi open championships; Fith day (185 lom quad, 28 completeness of 301; 1, F. Jones Nambus; 4) 102.8 (ph., 633pts; 2, E. Lysakowski (Nimbus; 3D, 97.7, 597, 3, P. Hanvey (ASH, 25); 96.3, 575; 4, D. Innes (Nambus; 3); 95.575; 4, D. Innes (Nambus; 3); 95.571; 5, M. Ferensin (ASH, 25); 95.563, Selbday (provisionet; 187 km quad, 19 completors of 29; 1, Innes; 187 kpt.; 2, P. Jones 74.6, 818; 3, J. Gorringe (ASH, 25); 73, 800; 4, M. Bard (ASH, 27); 72, 1791; 5, T. Cheethern 71, 790; Leading overall poelions (provisionet; 1, Cheethern 4,910pts; 2, Innes; 4,227; 3, P. Sheard (ASH, 23); 4,907.

GOAL VALLEY, Rimots: Quad City Classics.
Seading Res-round scores (United States unless states): 65: (3 Heliberg. 66: R.
Cochtan, D. Stodenn, R. S. McCarly, 67: R.
Elson, E. Dougherly, W. Meyter, K. Perry, J.
Gelacher, M. B. Flesser, E. Johnson, E.
Aubrey, D. Tama, K. Feggus, R. Ester, M.
Sulvan, T. Smoson, R. Games, D. Esteranda, S. Verpank, J.P. Hayes, T. Plannés Jr., W.
Hac'le, J. O'Keele.

CORNELUS, Oregon: United Steies Women's 'Open: Leading first-round scores (United Steies unless stated): 67: L Neumann (See), 68: S Redman, K Robbins, D Richard (Carl., Se R Pak (S Kor), 89: L Kare, P Johnson, M Spencer-Devifn, N Lopez 70: A Dibos (Penu), R Jones, J Crusstrjom, A Micholas (GB), P Sinn (Tewerl), 71: L Hackney (GB), K Williams, A Fulushims (Japan), C Plence (GB), D Eogening, S Smyers, B Conie Rusinn, J Model, J Stephenson (Aus.), J Piscock, Other European scories 72: K Marshafi (GB), S Cooce (III), 75: L Devices (GB), 76: C Nitsmark (See), C Screentam Swed), A Mariller, J
ORIENTEERING

LEOPOLDBURG, Beigham: World junior championships: Short diatance: Men (Skm): 1. J Rostrup (Nor) 23min 21sec; 2 equal; P Openy (Swe) and R Gunnarson (Swe) 23:23. British: 8, S Gould (Devon) 24:45: 15, A Squite (Edinburgh) 25:10; 42, D.Jenkins (York) 28:03. Women (42m): 1, H Heislamen (Fm) 24:17; 2, K Milarova (Cz) 24:43; 3, H Jukiola (Fm) 24:46. British: 30, J Whitelead (York) 25:55; 43, J Slevenson (Edinburgh) 30:56; 52, C Ashton (Bristol) 33:47:

RUGBY LEAGUE

BRISBANE: International metric: Austra-lan Rugby Lategue 28 Rest of the World 8. ALLIANCE CHAMPIONISHIP: Hallas: 15 St Helens 12: Hull 30 Feathersone 8; Oldham 23 Castleford 18. ALISTRALASIAN SUPER LEAGUE: Ade-laide Rams 8 Auddend Warnors 18.

ROWING

ROWING

LUCERNE: World Cup regette: Men: Sculis: Qualifiers for semi-finalet Stovenia (Cop), Landa (Reinholds), United States (Roveni, Czech Republic (Chatupa). Greet British (Searle) second in heat one, goes to repechage. Quade: Qualifiers for semi-finalet United States; tash, Germany, Great British (Rettle, Lariman, Greenaway, Wake) sidh in heat, Mro po to repechage. Codess pairs: Qualifiers for semi-finalet Germany. Great British (Rettle, Lariman, Greenaway, Wake) sidh in heat, Mro po to repechage: Codess pairs: Qualifiers for semi-finalet Cractical, New Zealand, tash, Codeses fours: Qualifiers for final: Australa, Romania, Enghis: Qualifiers for final: Australa, Romania, Great British (Beachey, West, Garbert, Austral, Donose, Story, Hamilton, Durn. Commod; they in heat one, go to repechage Codess fours: Qualifiers for semi-finalet Poland, Germany, Great British (Beachey and Bedingfield) 5th in heat two, go to repechage Codess fours: Qualifiers for semi-finalet County, Great British (Referency, Great British (Rettle), Denmank, Canada, Germany, Great British (Rettle), Denmank (Rettle), Oliver Canadia, Chapton), New Zealand (Scound, Chapton), New Zealand (Scound, Carest British (Batter), Great British (Lundey, Batter) that in heat two, go to repochage, Double seutle: Cuasifiers for final: Germany, Sutzerland.-Great British (Lundey, Batter) that in heat two, go to repochage, Octobes pairs: Qualifiers for final: Germany, Sutzerland.-Great British (Lundey, Batter) that in heat two, go to repochage. Codess pairs: Qualifiers for final: Germany, Sutzerland.-Great British (Lundey, Batter) that in heat two, go to repochage. Codess pairs: Qualifiers for final: Germany, Sutzerland.-Great British (Lundey, Batter) that in heat two, go to repochage.

semi-finals: Romania, Canada, Australia. Great Britain (Biackie, Bishop) second in heat two, go to repectage Lightweights: Double eculis: Qualifiers for semi-finals: Denmark, Romania, Holland, Canada, Germany, Franca, Sweden, Geat Britain (Birch, Longlands), Greace.

SAILING

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE: Sixth leg (Boston to Southermoton): Latest positions (with miles to Southermoton, as at 12-04GMT yesterday): 1, Group 4 254; 2, Toshibe Wave Warnor 941; 3, Concert 976; 4, Commercel Union 1,930; 5, Soom 1,036; 6, Save The Children 1,043; 7, Nuclear Electric 1,050; 8, Motorola 1,051; 9, Courtautds International 1,061; 10, Pause To Remember 1,063; 11, Cocen Rover 1,063; 12, Heatin Insured JI 1,065; 13, Global Tearnwork 1,083; 14, Time & Tide 1,142.

OAVIS CUP: Euro/Adrican zone: Group two play-offic Ireland level with Greace 1-1 (in Dublin); Georgis lead Nigeris 2-0 (in Ibilis); Lavis lead Ghens 2-0 (in Riga); Egypi level with Lithuanus 1-1 (in Caro). Asia/Oceania zone: Group one play-off: Uzbelistian level with Japan 1-1 (in Tasin-kerti)

Ibida), Lavus lead Grana 2-0 in regul; Egypt level with Lithuans 1-1 (in Caro). Asia/Cicsania zone: Group one play-oft Uzbelstania level with Japan 1-1 (in Tashlent)
BRISTOL: Chellenger tournement: Second rounct. J Delgado (3B) bt J Holmes (Aus) 1-8, 64-61; P Trameochi (Aus) bt J van Lottum (Hoti) 6-7, 7-5, 64-1 Coetzee (SA) bt J Knowle (Aus) 6-7, 8-2, 7-5; S Pescosolio (in bi Cheggard (SA) 6-4, 6-3; P Pescosolio (in bi Cheggard (SA) 6-4, 6-3; M Petchey (DB) bt V Snymen (SA) 7-6, 6-3. Ouertor Primise: Petricy in Burnera 6-4, 3-6, 6-4; Hunt bt Tramaconi 6-7, 6-4, 6-3; Pescosolio bt Coetzee 6-3, 6-1; M Navarra (t) bt Delgado 6-2, 6-7, 6-3
BASTAD, Swedent: Men's tournament: Quarter-finals: JA Marin (Sp) bt T Nydah (Swe) 6-2, 6-1; M Norman (Swe) bt J Tarango (US) 6-2, 6-3; K Kucara (Slovakia) bt M Lesson (Swe) 6-4 ret. C Costa (Sp) bt P Fredriesson (Swe) 6-4 ret. C Costa (Sp) bt Notester (Ser) 6-4, 6-3; W Ferrera (SA) bt M Rosset (Switz) 7-5, 7-8; F Mertille (Sp) bt J Sánchez (Sp) 6-4, 6-3
NEWPORT, Finode Island: Men's tournament: Quarter-finals: J Company (Sp) 6-4, 6-3
NEWPORT, Finode Island: Men's tournament: Quarter-finals: A Company (Sp) 6-4, 6-3
NEWPORT, Finode Island: Men's tournament: Quarter-finals: J Company (Sp) 6-4, 6-3; M Ferrera (SA) bt M Rosset (Switz) 7-5, 7-8; F Mertille (Sp) bt J Sánchez (Sp) 6-4, 6-3
NEWPORT, Finode Island: Men's tournament: Quarter-finals: S de Beer (SA) bt M Rosset (Switz) 7-5, 7-8; F Mertille (Sp) bt J Sánchez (Sp) 1-76; T F Mertille (Sp) 1 M Rosset (Sp) 1-76; T F Mertille (Sp) 1 M Rosset (Sp) 1-76; T Sangura (Sp) 1-76; T Sa

1,202 WTA RANKONGS: 1, M. Hingis (Switz) 5,778pts: 2, J. Novotna (Ct) 3,568; 3, M. Salas (US) 3,181; 4, I. Majoli (Cro) 3,185; 5, S. Grat (Ges) 2,680; 6, A. Costzor (SA) 2,545; 7, L. Davenport (US) 2,437; 8, A. Sanchez Vicario (Sp) 2,438; 9, A. Huber (Ger) 2,256; 10, M. Pierce (Fr) 2,251; 11, C. Mestinaz (Sp) 1,973; 12, I. Sandes (Rom) 1,871; 13, M. J. Fannandez (US) 1,708; 14, B. Schutz-McCarthy (Hull) 1,579; 15, K. Po (US) 1,577; 16, B. Paulus (Austral) 1,442; 17, R. Dragomir (Rom) 1,421; 18, K. Hebsuckas (Sovotkis) 1,405; 19, S. Appelmens (Bel) 1,325.

IN BRIEF Petchey's

patience pays off

MARK PETCHEY reached the semi-finals of the Bristol Challenger tennis tournament yesterday, surviving a stormy encounter with Oscar Burrieza, of Spain. Despite suffering from the effects of a virus, Petchey won a tight, three-set match 6-4, 3-6, 6-4. keeping an admirably cool head in the final set when Burrieza first threatened to walk off court during an argument with the umpire and then pulled back

Petchey's 5-I lead to 5-4. However, Jamie Delgado failed to follow his fellow Briton into the last four. losing another close match 6-2, 6-7, 6-3 to Mose Navarra. of Italy.

Final move

Football: The Uefa Cup final next season will be played as a one-off fixture instead of the two-leg format of previous years. Lennart Johannson, the president of Uefa, the game's European governing body, said yesterday. It will precede the Cup Winners' Cup and European Cup finals in May.

Blatter bid

Olympic Games: Sepp Blatter, the general secretary of Fifa, football's world governing body, is to lead a bid by the Swiss city of Sion to host the 2006 Winter Games.

Becker goes on

Tennis: Boris Becker, 29, entered the forthcoming US Open yesterday, ending spec-ulation that his recent Wimbledon appearance would be his last at a grand-slam event.

Spin doctor

Cricket: Intikhab Alam, the former Pakistan leg-spin bowler, will conduct a coaching clinic in the Caribbean in August with five of the West Indies' leading spin bowlers.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

Today

CRICKET Benson and Hedges Cup Final 11 0, 50 overs LORD'S: Kent v Surrev Tour match

10 45, 50 over EDINBURGH (Grange CC): Scotland v Northern Electric Trophy

11.0, 50 overs SCARBOROUGH: Yorkshire v Durham **RUGBY UNION** rtemational match Australia v England (at Sydney Pootball Stadium, 11 0)...

RUGBY LEAGUE Stones Super League Pans v Wigan (7.0) OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: World championships trials ATHETICS: World championships trais (in Birmingham)
BOXING: World Boxing Council heavy-weight championship: L Lewis (GB, holicer) v H Akinwande (GB) lat Lake Tahoe) European super-bantamweight championship: S Oliver (Bamet, holder) v S Poliblan (Fr) (at Olympia) CROOULET: Braish Open championships (at Huringham). CYCLING: Inter-Services 10-miles champ-ionship (Quartey, Hampishin, 20) EQUESTRIANISM: Royal International Horse Show (at Hickstead). GOLP: Loch Lomond World Invitational HOCKEY: Women's International match:

HOCKEY: Women's International match: England v Spain (at Bisham, 4.0) MOTOR RACING: British Formula Three championship (at Sverstone). SPEEDWAY: Site League: Bradford v Ipswich (7.30): Covenity v Swindon (7.30);

Eastbourne v Beile Vue (7:30) Premier League: Berweck v Arene Essex (6:30). Four-tearn Championship: Qualifying round: Stoke v Long Eaton v Hull v Sheffield (7:30) Amattaut League: Berweck v Peterborough (8:0). King's Lynn and Ipswech v Long Eaton and Wolverhampton (6:0) Long Earon and workernampton (s.u)
TENNIS: Devis Cup Euro/African zone:
Group one: Play-off: Ukraine v Great
Britain (in Kev). Group two: Play-off:
keland v Greece (in Dublin). Challenger
tournament (in Bristo).

Tomorrow CRICKET Axa Life League

2 0, 40 overs DERBY: Derbyshire v Yorkshire CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham v SOUTHAMPTON: Hampshire v

TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v HOVE: Sussex v Gloucestershire Tour match 11.0, 50 overs WALSALL: English Cricket Board XI v Pakistan A

McCain Challenge 11 0, 50 overs SCARBOROUGH: Esser v MENOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of two). Southill Peace Bedfordshiro v Lincolnshire Radiasti: Horifordshire v North. Typermouth: Northumberand v Cambridgeshire Oswestry: Stropshire v Wales. Mariborough CC: Witshire v Comwall.

RUGBY UNION International match

Stones Staner League Shetheld v London (3 15) St Helens v Halilax (6.35) First division Hull KR v Whilebaven (30).

Keighley v Wakefield (3 0). Swinton v Dewsbury (3 0). Widnes v Featherstone (3 0)... Workington v Huddersheld (3 0) Second division

Batley v Bramley (3.15) Doncaster v Hunslet (3.0).... Prescol v Rochdale (3 0).... York v Leigh (3 0) ACADEMY CHAMPIONSHIP: London v Hull, Si Helens v Haldax: Wigan v

OTHER SPORT ATHLETICS: World championship thats (in

CROQUET: British Open championships CYCLING: National 100km Keen time-trial championship (Tecibum Si Mary, 6am) EQUESTRIANISM: Royal International Horse Show (at Hickstead)

GOLF: Open regional qualifiers HOCKEY: Women's International mat England v Scotland (at Busham, 10.30). MOTOR RACING: British Grand Pro: (a)

SPEEDWAY: Eite League: Swindon v Coversty (6 0) Premier League: Glasgow v Shetheld (6 30), Newcastle v Arena Essa-(6 30) Amateur League: Buxton v Berwick (3 0); Lathellan v Peterborough (2.30), Newport and Exeter v Oxford (2.30). TENNIS: Devis Cup Euro/Ahlean zone: Group one: Play-off: Ukraine v Great Britain (in Nev), Group two: Play-off: Ireland v Greece (in Dublin) Challenger tournament (in Bristol)

White on course to turn Red

SALFORD Reds have become favourites to sign Josh White. the London Broncos scrum half, who had been expected to sign for the newly-promoted Hull Sharks.

White, 24, has been outstanding in the Broncos rising to second place in the Super League, but, with his contract up at the end of the year, he has attracted interest from other clubs. His non-appearance at

training on Sunday led to the Broncos suspending him for two wæks, which was followed by Salford showing an interest in him. The Reds have also put in a £50,000 offer for David Bradbury, Oldham's unsettled forward.

Andy Gregory, the Salford coach, has been ordered to the Rugby Football League headquarters next Tuesday to explain his outburst after his side's 31-14 defeat away to Leeds. Gregory criticised Robert Connolly, the match referee, accusing him of being a "big-head".

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CYCLING 48

Stage winner is placed last for Tour show of force

SPORT

TENNIS 51 Rusedski's defeat leaves Britain struggling in Kiev



SATURDAY JULY 12 1997

Brittle wins rugby's long-running battle

CLIFF BRITTLE was last night voted chairman of the new Rugby Football Union (RFU) management committee. He polled 599 votes, to 357 for Bob Rogers. For the second day running.

central London was invaded by men from the shires scenting blood. On Thursday, it had been the pro-hunting lobby, anxious to maintain its sporting traditions, which paraded in Hyde Park. Last night, it was the turn of the yeomen of Middle England, who represent the smaller rugby union clubs that form the backbone of the game, as the power struggle for the soul of the sport continued.

The majority of those at the annual meeting of the RFU last night backed Brittle against Rogers. the RFU committee's

candidate. Their standard-bearer was Fran Cotton, fresh from triumphs in South Africa, who urged support for Brittle who, Cotton said, had singlehandedly stood for the princi-



Rogers: stressed experience

ples of tradition and integrity especially in engineering En-gland's readmittance to the five nations championship and a more even distribution of the financial

spoils throughout the game.
"It is time truth, balance and objectivity was brought to this election," Cotton said. "We must have someone with integrity, tenac-ity and drive to uphold, safeguard

the game.
"If any man has shown that over the past 18 months, it is Cliff Brittle. The game should be saying: Thank God for Cliff Brittle.' ".

Cotton, the manager of the successful British Isles tour, said that Brittle's vision had been to develop northern-hemisphere rugby, as there was no reason why the southern hemisphere should "remain the dominant influence in

world rugby".

Rogers, who enjoyed the support of Will Carling, the former England captain, had played on his 29 years' administrative experience and his belief that he could unify the various factions. "We must move forward together. It is important to restore integrity and credibility into the game. My vision is real and I will deliver," Rogers

Earlier in the meeting, further fall-out from England's temporary expulsion from the five nations' championship last year — its timing, who knew and when -



clouded the meeting at the London Hilton Hotel. At the start of proceedings, John Richardson, the retiring president of the RFU, maintained that Brittle alone knew that England had been expelled, that he had been informed by fax but had chosen to say nothing. Brittle denied this. In the interim,

Sir Tasker Watkins QC, president of the Welsh Rugby Union, Vernon

Pugh, its chairman, Tom Kiernan, chairman of the five nations' com-mittee, and Dr Syd Millar have all maintained that the RFU was aware of the situation.

Addressing Richardson, Cotton asked: "Are you calling Sir Tasker, Vernon Pugh, Tom Kiernan and Syd Millar liars? That is the clear implication and, on behalf of those people, I resent what is being said."

Loking back over his presiden-cy, Richardson admitted that it had not been "a happy year" and he lamented that the internecine strife that has bedevilled the game could not have been settled privately without recourse to media leaks. In supporting the committee's nomi-nation of Rogers, Richardson said that he felt his man would be "good for peace and unity in our game and we need that.

Colin Herridge the RFU treasur-er, said that it had been a watershed year for the game's finances, and that steps were being taken to ensure that the loss of £6.2 million last year would soon translate into a surplus. Herridge maintained



Brittle enjoyed support

that £100 million would flow into the game over the next five years, the bulk of it from the BSkyB television deal, the long-form contract for which was signed on Wednesday, Enshrined in that was the RFU's veto over pay-per-view

broadcasting.
Tony Hallett, the acting RFU chief executive, outlined impending sponsorship deals worth some £2

million to replace, among others, those ended by Pilkington and Save and Prosper. Agreements would be signed and names revealed over the next two or three weeks. Hallett said, with the knockout cup being sponsored to the tune of £500,000, and another £200,000 for the county championship. A lucrative sponsor for the five nations' championship would also be announced in the near future. Herridge defended criticism from junior clubs over the division

being shared by 60 or 70 clubs and 63.6 million going 2,000 others. There was also criticism of the paucity of information contained in the accounts - a point which the union was prepared to concede. ☐ Sale, the Pilkington Cup runners-up and for whom Cotton played, have become the latest club to be taken over by a private company. Tourney, the sports management firm, has provided £2.5 million, and taken control of the rugby side at Sale. The com-pany will lease Heywood Road.

of spoils, which will see £3.2 million

Hill saga starts to spin out of control

By MICHAEL CALVIN

THE saga of Damon Hill's been made out of it. I don't sullied reputation showed ominous signs of beginning to spiral out of control at Silverstone yesterday, when an unconvincing damage limitation exercise raised more questions about his future they are able to offer me that than it answered.

The indignity of finishing the British Grand Prix, one place behind unregarded team-mate Pedro Diniz, was almost an irrelevance on a day of unflattering headlines, understandable anger and confusion.

Tom Walkinshaw, the Arrows owner, whose critical interpretation of Hill's ap-

Coulthard at home Lynne Truss

proach to the problems of a struggling team has overshadowed preparations for tomorrow's race, insisted that there was "no crisis". He branded as "a lie" speculation that he had threatened the world champion with dismissal.

Hill, at the centre of a scrum outside the team motorhome, mounted a robust defence of his reputation, stung by the implications of a lack of application.

"Tom is entitled to put a rocket up the burn of his drivers." he said. "I've had much worse criticism, but I'm shocked by how much has

Kendall's

move

brings writ

SHEFFIELD United have

issued a writ against Everton and their new

manager. Howard Ken-

dall, who left Bramall

Lane to take charge at Goodison Park last month

(David Maddock writes).

United hope to recover

£1 million in what they

claim were agreed levels of

compensation for Ken-

dail's services and what is

suggested as being a breach of contract. It is

understood a figure of £175,000 has been offered.

Everton have agreed to

part with £7.5 million to

secure the services of Fabrizio Ravanelli from

Middlesbrough. They hope

Paul Ince was on Mer-

seyside yesterday for a

medical before joining Liverpool, even though his

proposed £4 million trans-

fer from Internazionale

Blackburn Rovers have

signed the Sweden for-ward, Martin Dahlin,

has still to be resolved.

from AS Roma.

to talk to the player soon.

want to let anyone down, least of all myself.

"I want to be back in the hunt for the world championship as soon as possible, and I'd like it to be with Arrows if package. Money is not the issue. I want to win. I don't twentieth in free practice for want to be fifteenth, tenth or even sixth. I want to be first. That's what makes me go. That's what makes me fired up. That's what makes me want to race.

"I'm not keen to draw comparisons between the package represented by Tom and what we actually have. It would not be wise for a situation to evolve where one party starts to claim another party is not pulling his weight. We are all in this together."

Since even the merest hint of discord between Hill and Walkinshaw will be magnified in the present climate, the driver's stab at diplomacy was fatally flawed. Anyone associated with the controversy was canvassed for an opinion.

Bernard Dudot, the man behind Renault's all-conquering engine, set the tone of the debate by insisting that Hill would have successfully defended his world title, had he stayed with Williams. "It was a mistake to let Damon go," he said. "I wish he was still with us. He would have made the difference this year."

Frank Williams was predictably non-committal, but



restated his admiration for his former test driver. He argued: "He's struggled with his car, but the Damon Hill I know is a world champion racing driver who has won a large number of races. That's all you need to say about him."

Inevitably, he was inveigled into a broader appreciation of Hill's employment prospects. Williams estimated that 12 of the 22 drivers on the grid will change seats at the end of this season, but stressed that it was "probable" that he would reain Jacques Villeneuve and Heinz-Harald Frentzen "It's therefore probable that

great driver." The minefield of potential

Damon will not be driving for

us in 1998," he said, when asked whether Hill's immedi-

ate reinstatement was an op-

tion. Intriguingly. he continued: "Certainly, if cir-cumstances come together, I would re-employ him. He's a

problems, created by the situation, was inadvertently highlighted by John Barnard, the design guru brought in from Ferrari to provide a car worthy of a world champion's talent. He innocently created unnecessary confusion by highlighting necessary dev-

elopment work. "First of all I had to make the car safe." he said at an official press confer-

The next issue was to make

it reliable. We have started to. finish races and that is a step forward." It was not until further investigation revealed that his comments referred to a wishbone failure at Magny-Cours that Arrows' critics were diverted.

New components, designed to cope with greater stress loadings, will be used at Silverstone. This, in itself, was a typical example of Formula One's constant evolutionary process. But, in the prevailing climate, it merely stimulated fevered imaginations.

"I believe that if the team can get the right power plant, Damon wants to stay." Walkinshaw said. He reconfirmed that such a package is in place, and will be announced at the end of next month. But, this weekend, few people were listening.

Another poor race tomor-row, when Hill's performance will be the focal point for a capacity 90,000 crowd on the old airfield, and Arrows will be poisoned by assumptions of

John Wright, "taking a punt". Wright, however, sees

Cowdrey as the man to disrupt

Surrey's two spin bowlers, Saqlain Mushtaq and Ian Salisbury "Life is a gamble," he said, "and playing

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Surrey aim to disperse storm clouds

CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

SURREY come to Lord's today with the adornment of ten international players and the reputation of a team with more style than heart. If they should fail again, then a final that could mark the end of the Benson and Hedges Cup may also record the end of peace

and tolerance at the Oval. The bookmakers believe that Surrey will beat Kent today and a superficial comparison of the teams would support them. Sterner inspection, however, has invariably cast doubt on the surface glitter of Surrey. Kent, boasting an improved spirit and a peerless record in this competition, are the team to expose

any such fake. This is the first time in 19 seasons that Surrey have reached the July cup final, itself an indictment of their underachievement. Within that period, they have won only two honours, the 1982 NatWest Trophy and the Sunday league last year, and judgment on their present campaign depends entirely on their performance today.

Fourteenth in the county

LORD'S DETAILS

KENT (from): M v Flerring, M J Walker, D P Fulton, T R Ward, A P Welts, M A Eatham, N J Liong, P A Strang, S J Marsh (captam), M J McCague, D W Headley, G R Cowdrey, A P Igglesden, J B D Thompson, SURREY (from) A D Brown, A J Siewart, B C Hollicake, G P Thorpe, A J Hollicake (captain), C C Lewis, M A Butcher, J D Ratcliffe, I D K Satisbury, M P Bickneil, Sackein Mushtaq, J E Benjamir.
UMPIRES: D R Shepherd and G Sharp. Third umpire: J W Holder.
TELEVISION: Sky Soorts 1: Live from

TELEVISION: Sky Sports 1: Live from 10 30em. BBC2: Highlights 8 10-9.10pm.

in the Sunday league, their season suffered another embarrassing blow when they were knocked out of the NatWest Trophy by Notting-hamshire on Wednesday. This final is a last opportunity of reprieve and the coach, Dave Gilbert, said yesterday: "We have got to win and there is no reason why we shouldn't

"What I have been trying to ram into the guys," he said, "is that the achievement is not reaching a final but winning it." It does not bode well that Gilbert should feel the need of such emphasis; it also speaks volumes for his concern over the priorities and focus of some of his players. Both Gilbert and the club

committee are wary of the distractions of the commercial and contractual interests of room in which half of the team is driven by one highly entrepreneurial agent, Gareth,

If their worst fears are

realised in defeat today, harsh words will undoubtedly ensue, perhaps followed by the departure of one or two players. Gilbert, whose own contract is up for renewal after this season, may hang his future on it, though he will hope to be spared the stress.

If the promised changes to

the domestic structure come about next season, rather than in 1999 as is more likely, this may be the last year of two knockout cups. Any new system, however, should surely impose a lead-up to the remaining final that resembles the week just past, rather than the absurd September situation in which the NatWest Trophy finalists complete championship fixtures the night before their

appearance at Lord's. Surrey's preparations were dampened by the NatWest defeat but Kent, already out of that tournament, have enjoyed



training and net practice has been blended with golf at Royal St George's and a session of go-karting, the lat-est outing in their team bonding programme.

Kent's prospects of adding to their three Benson and Hedges triumphs have been enhanced by the clearance of their casualty ward. Graham Cowdrey is the last man to prove his fitness but, such is his influence in one-day cricket, that a calculated risk on his hamstring seems certain to be

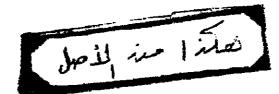
Cowdrey's cricket has been restricted to one Sunday league match in six weeks and

Cowdrey is a gamble I am prepared to take."

If Cowdrey is included, it will be at the expense of David Fulton, who has only played two Benson and Hedges matches - the 1995 final and the semi-final this season. Trevor Ward's knee injury has responded to treatment and

Martin McCague is also fit to resume a hostile new-ball pairing with Dean Headley. Kenrs game-plan will hope for an early breach by these two but depend rather more on frustrating Surrey's strokemakers by giving them nothing loose. As Kent are seeking to bat first and Surrey prefer to chase, the toss may be largely academic. So too, on the day of a final, are the results of previous games, but it is worth saying that Kent have beaten Surrey three times this season in one-day cricket. They would trade them all for victory today.

علدًا من لأصا



TENNIS 51 ing in Kiev

shifts to the versatile dress suit shopping. 3 battle

Fashion

WEEKENCE CONTINUES OF CONTINUES

Hardy Amies on his horror of women gardeners gardening ·



SATURDAY JULY 12 1997

Libby Purves on how we are all guilty of spending our way to a child-centred society



oom and consume, shop till you llop; Chelsea, has a new department store. It is upmarket, beaudifully fitted with wide, comfortable galleries and a stage-designer's vi-sion. There is an indoor clock and plans for the rest of the tower and beautiful barley nation. And for Europe, sugar twist baristers on the Children's department stores wide Edwardian staircases; a are the latest brainwave from and furniture, and bikes and games. No, not for you: everything on sale is for children under ten.

Think First

somer phone b

A YOUR CH!

Ah well, you say — Chelsea The King's Road. Drifting Sloane mums in Alice bands trying to fill nanny's day off; affluent access-daddies desperate for something to do which doesn't involve the swimming pool changing room. But it is not just Chelsear there is from 34 down to three," he

The spoils of childhood

soda fountain, bair salon. Tan Waterstone, the gentle, clothes and shoes, and books civilised, self-deprecating maverick who changed the face of British bookselling in the Eighties. He has called the stores Daisy & Tom, after his three year-old daughter and the son of Christopher Thomson, of the publishers D.C. Thomson, his backers. But his personal credentials for starting such an enterprise are impeccable.

"Look, I have eight children, another one twice the size says. I want to create a shop opening soon in Manchester, which pays children the com-

pliment of offering good quali-ty in surroundings designed for them. We will not be selling tat. OK, I did rashly tell one journalist that we won't stock Barbie but, as it happens, we will. But we will not be majoring on Barbie. Lots of good quality wooden toys."

Good quality wooden toys are, of course, the kind of thing that usually appeal rather more to wistful parents than to their techno-generation children. There is also, true to his Waterstone's background, the biggest children's bookshop in the country right at the centre, with a firmer promise of good storytelling sessions and absolutely no teen trash fiction.

The Chelsea Daisy & Tom opens at the end of the month, and the proud father showed me round the half-finished shop: the working hand-carved fairground carousel, the murals, the Germanic clocktower with gilt faces and moving figures, the puppet theatre on the clothes floor featuring the only antique marionettes ever to be run by programmed animation.

In the entrance there is another coup de théâtre: an electric train set which runs under the Perspex floor you walk on. Rather unkindly, I pointed out that any normal toddler's first action will be to fall on its face and press its nose to the floor to see the train better. Incoming shoppers will trip over them. Mr Waterstone firmly led me away to show off the miniature lavatories with customised tiles.

ecadent? Institution-

alised spoiling? Western sentimental fantasy, insulting to a world where six-year-olds toil in dark factories? Perhaps. But it is very pretty, and it would be hard to begrudge Mr Waterstone another success. At least his commercial policy is quixotically fixed on pretty shops and friendly atmosphere; unlike that of bigger, colder-eyed public companies who entice children into an atmosphere of hardsell. It is a vast market (£320 million in children's books, nearly £2 billion on toys, uncounted billions in clothing spent in the UK each year) and most of it is certainly not conducted amid such cranky Edwardian elegance, nor in such a kindly and literate

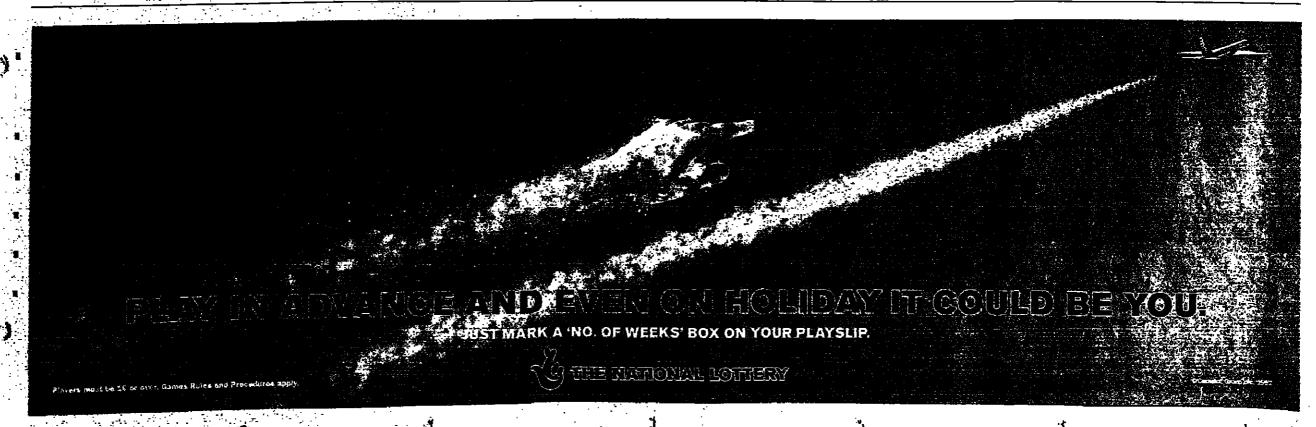
atmosphere. With a few honourable exceptions, children's goods inhabit tacky warehouses, overpriced boutiques, or snobbish cramped children's departments which make few concessions to the smaller customer's real comfort. If Waterstone the kindly dolphin has decided to

swim in the shark pool, per-

haps we should be grateful. But the advent of Daisy & Tom does make you reflect on what has happened to Britain over the past few decades. Parents do not need surveys such as Asda's recent What Price A Child? to remind them that it costs tens of thousands to be a consumer parent. These reports are fascinating, if only because they encourage all parents - consumer or not - to compare their own expenditure with the surreal-sounding figures conjured up. They always feature items such as equipment 0-five years at £2,000, and birthdays and Christmas five-11 years at £4,614, as well as more credible costings for clothes, food, holidays, transport and educational extras. The assumption is that if it is available, you'll try to afford it,

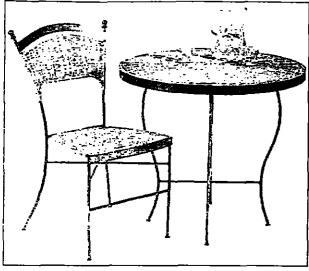
Continued on page 2

SHOPPING 23 GARDENING 46 PROPERTY 7.8 FEATURES 10 HOME LIFE 11 COUNTRY LIFE 13 TRAVEL



Ditch the plastic this summer and invest in modern garden furniture that looks elegant too, says Caroline Griffiths

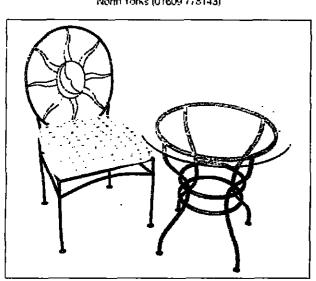
Reserve a chic place in the sun



ABOVE: Giselle bistro table, sale price £59. Giselle bistro chair, sale price £45, from selected branches of House of Fraser (0171-963 2236)

RIGHT: Spring table, £300, oval chair, £132, plus p&p, (also available in square back) from Bisca Design. Shaw Moor Farm, Harome, York (01439 771702)

BELOW: Hand-forged iron Hour Glass table. £345; sun chair, 9245. (including cushion) mail order from The Iron Design Company. Summer Carr Farm, Thornton le Moor Northallerton, North Yorks (01609 778143)



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SUFFER IN A

CAGED HELL

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ILPH rehabilitation centre.

where our staff are now

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common in Britain. As a

charity, we need your

support to help end the suffering.

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our work by returning the

working to save them.

This poor, suffering creature

is one of twelve neglected

horses recently discovered

in Cheshire. Its coat infested with lice and its ribs clearly

visible, the horse was left to

starve in this small cage.

Many of the others were in

far worse condition - one

sadly died on the day we

ILPH field officer Paul

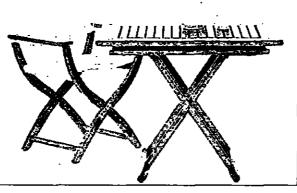
Teasdale, despite thirty years

I enclose a donation of £

I would like more information about your work and how I can become a supporter

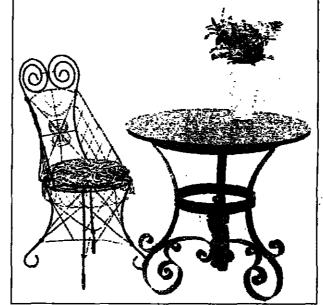
shocked by what he saw.

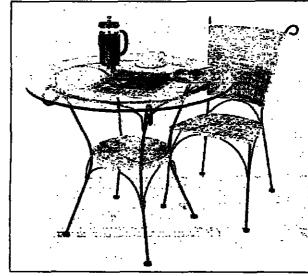




ABOVE: Triconfort director's chair, £410, from the Normandy range; balcony table, 2635, adjusts to three heights, from Interiors Furniture and Furnishing, 224-226 York Road, Battersea, SW11 (0171-924) 2400); mail order (01279 816001)

RIGHT: Urn table with weatherproof state top. £1,364; weatherproof Chloe chairs, £310 each (cushion not included), from Marston & Langinger, 192 Ebury Street, SW1 (0171-824 8818)





ABOVE: Wrought iron and rattan Farindo glass top table, £175; Farindo chair, £79, from The Pier (0171-814 5020)

Continued from page 1 be it a designer Swedish highchair or a pair of cute \$80 trainers for a baby who can't

walk vet. It goes wider, too, If children's goods are a massive commercial sector, so are childish entertainments. Mop-

pets whose parents counted other devices of containment. themselves lucky to be taken When I was a beach brat in

around Kenwood now have the prospect of Alton Towers and Thorpe Park. Chessington and Legoland. Holiday companies fall over themselves to offer child-friendly holidays though not precisely family holidays, because the emphasis is on creches and clubs and

France, we used to look with horrified amazement at French children corralled in Le Club Mickey while maman sunbathed; we Brits had family life on holiday, even if the entertainment was limited to sulphurous egg sandwiches and Burying Father. What has happened? What

led us all the way from Derry & Toms to Daisy & Tom? It is not so long since we were a nation which dressed its young in cutdown adult clothing tremember heavy, hairy crats which cut into your armpits?). Children were expected to watch their dads play cricket on Saturday, and to wriggle on chairs during long, boring Sunday visits to great-granny with no reward but a dry macaroon. No McDonald's, no inflatable hall-ponds and foam-rubber Wonderworlds. Toys were ewer and all too often educational. No Nike Airs or Docs for us, just brogues or those loathsome Mam'zelle Casuals with fringy leather bits on the instep. Young reader, you may not believe this, but in the dark 1960s it was commonplace for girls to wear their school shoes in the holidays.

there has been both pleasure and dismay for my generation, watching it all grow. Even I, as a mother in the early Eighties, came too early for such aids to infant rearing as all-purpose baby chairs. Tumble Tots classes, underthree music sessions, junior judo and baby massage. We had to make do with carryouts and dancing classes so unchanged since the 1950s that it was instructive to listen to my then three-year-old son in conversation with a tractor driver on the subject. Do you go to Mrs G's, then?" "Yer, I did that." "Does she still make you do good-toes-bad-toes? Bet she does." "And bunny-hops." 'I used to hate bunny-hops." Yeah, and being a sunflower." There was some continu-

Of course, there are still children who go biking on their own, build dens in the hedge and roll in mud; who still think it is a big deal to go into Ipswich, and have not discovered that C&A is not a designer label. But television soon shows them the new kiddy consumer deal, and eventually they want it. And I

can't blame them. There is no

'If you live without hope it makes sense to fulfil children's dreams'



Photograph, Hulton Deutsch

"Town and country planning has ignored children for decades in favour of cars, and street crime." against commercial exploitation of childhood: we encour-(REAL-TERMS) age it. The advertisers' theory 1997 "pester power" and direct £36,80 Pushchair advertising to children would not work if we didn't give in. Cot £7 £200 But we do. It is easy to Highchair £6 £55.20 become addicted to the moment when a loved child 23p ice lotty 45p widens his eyes and gasps Packet of crisps with amazement at the mirac-**12**p 22p ulous gift or treat the power of London Zoo E1.84 our money has brought. I never enjoyed being a consum-Tooth fairy **2**3p <u> E1</u>er so much as during the years when my children were toy-lovers: the wind-up plastic Pocket money £3.22 £1.69

32/6 -

taking over the landscape they to moan that "every damn thing is geared to kids But they are wrong. What has really happened is that we see daily how dangerous, how uncertain, how bad and sad things are for the world's children: and it makes us want to get out the plastic card and buy our own a fairyland. Television contemplation of

brutalised or starving children

drill, the fort, the steam en-

gine, the roundabouts, are

memories as glorious for me

as for them. The marketeers

are only giving us what they

reckon we will buy. Not just

novelty or cuteness, but a

whole package designed to reassure us — for money — that the world welcomes our

children and cares what hap-

Guilt helps, too. There is the

obvious guilt of working par-

ents, but there is something

wider, too. When the childless

complain at the kiddy industry

pens to them.

does not make us less likely to spoil our own, but more so. Seeing how thin is the veneer that stops humankind mis-treating children, how frail our fantasy of safe and cherished childhood, we throw up a wall of soft toys and novelty beds in denial of this horror. Rather as, traditionally, mothers from the grimlest industrial slums used to put their children into white socks. Just

£9.99

watch the silly smiles on adult faces as they accompany their little ones round Disneyland Paris's Small World ride. watching animated happy dolls dance in national dress as you pass from one happy innocent land to the next. Aaaah! We know it is an illusion, but we have paid good money for it.

uilt also has a more mmediate aspect British town and country planning has ignored children for decades in favour of cars, and street crime. William Brown and the Outlaws are no more, still less their smaller followers. We cannot give them freedom because of traffic and lurking paedophiles, and the embarrassed fear which has choked the old social instincts.

In living memory all adults still felt able to question. reprove and protect all children. Today we don't. Part of the trauma of the James Bulger case was that his abductors were not challenged by anyone who saw them march him to the railway line.

So we keep the children in and gild the cage with bedroom televisions and computer consoles. We can't enjoy a family walk through the urinestained underpasses of the cities wrecked by cars, so we strap them in yet another car and go to Alton Towers. We fear that they won't get jobs. will be poisoned by pollution or burnt by the hole in the ozone layer. If you live without faith or much hope, it makes sense to fulfil children's dreams right now, while they are small and the dreams are

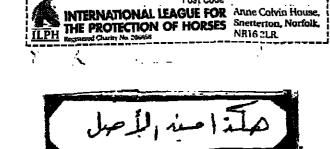
Well, there are worse places for a child than standing on a pedestal, receiving tribute. At least there is love behind it, and at least the Daisy & Tom shop is designed so that the working mother or the access daddy will be obliged to stand and look at the puppets or the carousel and share a child's enjoyment, rather than flashing the plastic, shouldering the loot and running out of the place with a bewildered toddler in tow. There are worse sicknesses in society than spoiling children.

But the trouble is that if a fairyland of imagination and bright play is available for sale while free parks and children's libraries are run down and the streets grow ever more crimeridden, the gulf between rich and poor widens, cruelly, just at the age when everybody should be equal.

And what about those children, the ones who are economically shut out from all the fun and prettiness, and know it? When I left Daisy & Tom, I saw a familiar figure in a Tube station: a blank-eyed teenage girl who begs with a pale baby in her arms. Commuters were alking past, accelerating, looking away in guilty irritation at what was being done to their emotions.

It is being carried out quite calculatedly by this girl mother - I have spoken to her several times and she is not without choices in her life. She has considerable success, exploiting our unease about children in her own low-tech way. Those who walk past often throw her money, because of the baby crawling on the dirty subterranean concrete. Just throw the money at the child and hurry on through life: ah well, we all do a bit of that.

• Cover photograph toys courtesy of Daisy & Tom and Hamigys.



MEAFAIT SAIL RUAY BAY

Caroline Griffi

ر ا من المول

Shift into top gear

Steer yourself away from stodgy separates and into the fast lane with stylish dress suits, says **Heath Brown**



Carnel needle cord shift dress, £159, Episode, branches nationwide (0171-589 4279). White fine sheer knit cardigan, £25, Etam, selected branches nationwide (0171-494 7732)



Carnel needle cord jacket, £239, Episode, branches nationwide (0171-589 4279). Choc fine belt tie vest, £47, Jigsaw, branches nationwide (0171-491 4484): Sage pinstripe fine wool trousers, £140, Jeeger, 200 Regent Street, W1, and branches nationwide (0171-200 4000). Choc suede gold buckle sting backs shoes, £59.95, Bertie, 36 South Molton Street, W1, and branches nationwide (0171-935 2002)





he key word in any woman's wardrobe should be versatility. Although one-off wonders in vibrant colours and avant garde designs will always be tempting, getting carried away and indulging yourself usually only leaves a hole in your pocket. And often, such an outfit is so memorable that when you've worn it once, you're unable to bring it out of the wardrobe again until a decent time period has elapsed.

Sensible dressing doesn't have to be boring, though. Just take a look at the dress suit, which is the proper way to describe a tailored shift dress with matching jacket. For summer, it is flattering to the figure in a neutral colour such as camel, sand or deep chocolate brown. Beware staple black or navy because these can look rather severe in the bright sunshine, but white is a classic look, especially with a tan.

dress suit is undoubtedly comfortable, with clean, uncluttered lines. And few ensembles solve the eternal problem of summer officewear more stylishly. After six o'clock, drop the jacket, replace it with a neat cardigan and you have an elegant yet relaxed outfit, ideal for informal afterwork outings. If the occasion is more glamorous, drop the dress instead and wear the jacket over a lacy slip frock.

You can create a different look again by

You can create a different look again by adding a pair of well-cut contrasting trousers and matching top, or wear the jacket with a lighter blouse and a darker pair of pants to create a trouser suit. However, when mixing and matchingensure that the contrasting colours you wear with the jacket or dress tone well. Pitch the contrast too bright and you will end up with a garish mismatch. After all, the beauty of the dress suit is its simplicity—and versatility.



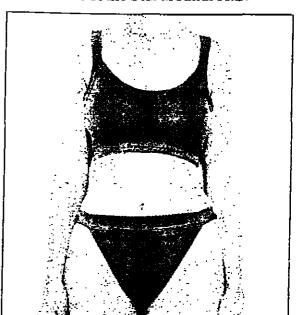
ABOVE: Camel needle cord jacket, £239, Episode, 172 Regent Street, W1: 16 St Anne's Square, Manchester, and branches nationwide (0171-589 4279) Blue fine rib vest, £37, Jigsaw, 126-127 New Bond Street, W1, and branches nationwide (0171-491 4484). Pink silk and cream lace skirt, £45, French Connection, 249 Regent Street, W1, and branches nationwide (0171-580 2507)

LEFT: Carnel needle cord jacket, £239; matching shift dress, £159, Episode, branches nationwide (0171-589 4279). Beige choc stripe ankle tie shoes, £49.99. Ravel, 184-188 Oxford Street, W1, and branches nationwide (0171-631 0224).

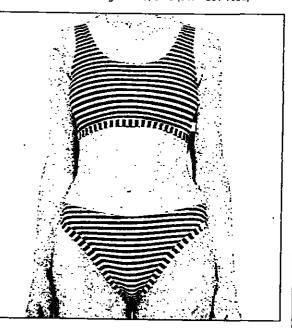
Photos: Richard Burns. Hair and make-up: Sarah Gottschack using Glauca Rossi Products (mail order, 0171-289 7485). Styling by Amandip Uppel

THREE OF A KIND

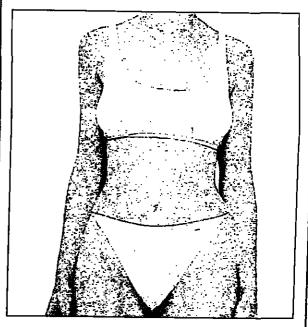
GO FOR the strong, sporty look and choose cotton cropped bra and knicker sets with an androgynous edge. Here are three of the best around. H.B.



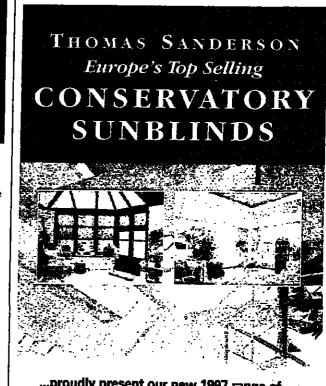
Dark blue cotton bra, £12, matching knickers £12, La Serica, 33 king's Road, SW3 (0171-831 1000)



Dark green/cream stripe bra, £10.99; matching knickers, £5.99, knickerbox, branches nationwide (0171-284 1744)



Pistachio fine cotton bra £18; matching knickers, £11, Calvin Klein, Selfridges, W1; Harrods, SW1 (0171-730 1234)



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GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

My irises grow to about 3ft tall. with three flowers per stem. They grow straight, but fall over when they flower. Could I stake the stems, or should I be doing some-thing else? — R. Chadwick. Radliffe on Trent, Notts. A Three flowers per stem is a bit feeble.

Perhaps your irises need replanting in enriched soil name "cape tulip". - and it is best to do that now. But don't use green. nitrogenous manure. It is old compost or manure they need, dug in deep below them. If you plaster the plants with nitrogen on the top layer they will produce only leaf and no flower. By encouraging stronger stems and flowers they should stand up better. Even so, many of the tall "bearded" irises are prone to flop. This is a wonderful plant, a 6-7ft pillar of Fasten them to caries or replace them with smaller bearded varieties. Generally, the smaller the iris the earlier it will flower, so the dwarf varieties will appear in April or May. But the

I am trying to find the name of a South African plant known as the blood flower". Can you help? - B. Morgan. Newcastle, Co. Down.

intermediates flower only a

little before the tall varieties.

in the second half of May.

They are just as showy and

stand up much better.

A This is Scadorus multiflorus, subspecies katharinae, a member of the amaryllis family. It used to be known as haemanthus from haema, the Greek for blood. It is a large bulb and not hardy. It can be grown in Britain in Sin pots or tubs with a winter

temperature of not less than 50F/10C. Pot up in March for July flowering. The flower is a spectacularly vulgar red affair on a fat 6in green stem. There is one flower per bulb, held bolt upright and looking like a big red leek. Haemanthus coccincus has a flower that looks as if a fat red shaving brush has been dropped into a fat red tulio, hence the

I have a clump of white Campanula lactiflora. Last year I cut it back after the first flush of flowers to produce a sec-ond flush. But the white milky sap gummed up my hands and secateurs and the only way to clean it off was with nail varnish remover. Any suggestions? -D.M. White. Cardiff.

cloudy white, pale blue or mauve bells. 'Prichard's Variety' is royal blue. They all need support but are worth the effort, and are perfect with big shrub roses. If you cut off the top 2-3ft of each stem, to just below the first flush of flower, further but smaller flowering shoots will be produced from the sides. I have done this for vears and, although the job is messy, it has never been a problem. I wonder if you were dealing with opium poppies or euphorbias at the same time? They certainly have sap that is hard to remove. Gloves are never a bad idea when dealing with sappy species. Write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times.

Pennington Street, London E19XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times regrets that any enclosures cannot be returned Stephen Anderton explains the methods of making summer cuttings from deciduous shrubs

A proper way to propagate

desert. Passing the summer without the scent of mock orange is a misery not to be Philadelphus lemoinei Erectus, it only grows to 6ft, but every year it is covered in small white lowers which smell heavenly.

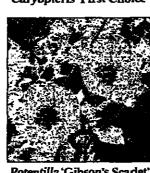
I also fancied some of the ordinary tall mock orange, Philadelphus coronarius, which is just as generous in flower and perfume. It is most commonly seen in its vellow-leaved form 'Aureus', whose foliage burns in hot sun and whose flowers are invisible among all that glittery unstable yellow. But the plain green P. coronarius is what I was really after. It makes a good edge-of-garden plant, where village meets country. like the yellow-berried guelder-rose Viburnum opulus 'Xanthocarpum'. It will also take a lot of shade and still do well.

A neighbour has a couple of huge specimens of this mock orange, so I asked for a potful of cuttings. I went to get them early, with a plastic bag and a pair of secateurs.

The reason to go before breakfast is that at this time the soft new growth is as turgid and full of water as it is ever going to be. This means the cuttings stand the least chance of wilting. Propagation is a race between you and bacteria. The sooner you can grow roots on a cutting, the sooner you can take off the polythene and put the cutting in fresh air, where it will not rot. The more it wilts, the more cells are damaged, and the

easier not can find a way in. At this time of year there is a choice of ways to make cut-







Abelia triflora

tings of deciduous shrubs such as philadelphus, deutzia. abelia, kolkwitzia, caryopteris, potentilla and sage. You can make soft tip cuttings a couple of inches long, dipped in rooting hormone, inserted half an inch into a pot of sand and covered with polythene. Keep them as light as possible, without being in direct sun. It

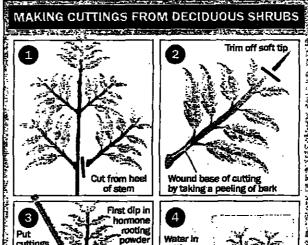


Deutzia x kalmiiflora is a prime candidate for propagation, either from soft tip cuttings or semi-ripe shoots

is helpful to dip the whole cuttings in dilute spraystrength fungicide before you insert them in the sand, and to settle them with a watering of the left-over fungicide.

Alternatively, you can take semi-ripe shoots, 5-6in long, now and into late summer. These are made from this year's shoots. They are separated from the bush at the point where the shoot began growth this year, with a "heel" of old wood. Use hormone rooting powder, fungicide and polythene as for the soft tip cuttings. You may wish to nip out the soft tip of these cuttings because this is the part most likely to wilt and rot.

Some books advise rubbing out the lower buds of the cutting - those which will be below the surface of the cutting compost or sand and, ultimately, below the soil. That is fine if you want a plant on a "leg" (a clean single stem), but I find it unhelpful. There is nothing more useful in a young shrub than growing a strong shoot from below the soil. It is always much stronger than the growth that comes off the cutting itself. Nine times out of ten it is this basal shoot which makes the first real new stem for the young plant. Often the old.



cutting grows a low twiggy branch, which makes little progress and can be cut away

in due course. Not all plants have this habit. It tends to work best

with those which make long

leaved species such

clean shoots with long gaps mid-summer and, because of

and cove

ceanothus, rosemary and lavender are not so obliging. Last year, I bought a small plant of the dark-leaved elder 'Guincho Purple'. I planted it

the drought. I forgave it for not making strong shoots from the base. But this year it has again only made growth from the cutting itself, and nothing from below, even though it has been well fed. I shall have to cut it down next spring to shock it into making some strong upright growth. If only the propagator who made the cutting had left on those buds at the base of the cutting. I would have shoots a yard high

nother habit of nursery propagators is the rooting of three cuttings together in a pot, to make a great bushy potful quickly. Sage is the classic example. It roots so easily that three cuttings can be put straight into the twolitre pot in which the plant will be sold.

But it is a short-term excedient and not a good thing for the plants in later life. They live so close together that the competition at the root level is too fierce, and their lifespan is shortened considerably. Then if one plant dies you are left with a hole in the canopy. It is a technique best saved for short-term houseplants: garden shrubs are better grown as individuals.

HOMES & GARDENS



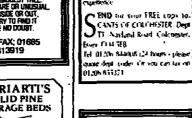
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Scurrah Gardens, a memorial to Wainwright senior. The Wainwright private garden only opens to the public three times a year and the main area includes 60 named varieties of delphiniums, plenty of phlox varieties, campanulas, some well-stocked herbaceous borders, wigwarns of sweet peas and rose beds. All this is surrounded by a belt of old trees, lawn and rough grass. "What pleases us most is when peop

OPEN THIS WEEKEND

■ 8 Dunstarn Lane, Adel, Leeds

Twenty metres from causeway at ring

road end. 28 and 28a buses stop near

Richard Wainwright, the former Liberal

MP, was brought up in this house with its two-acre garden, created in 1937 by his father, Scurrah. In the centre of Leeds is

gate. Groups by appointment only. Open tomorrow for the Northern Horticultural Society and on July 20 for the National Gardens Scheme, 2-6pm. £1, children free; picnics

(01L3-267 3938)

allowed on lawn

visit with their children and grandchil-dren and have their picnics in the grassy areas or on the lawn. In 50 years of opening I have never had to pick up more than a few toffee papers after people have left." says Mr Wainwright junior, who runs the garden with his wife, Joyce.

Stancombe Park, Dursley Gloucestershire (01453 542815)

Halfway between Dursley and Wotton-under Edge on B4060. Open tomorrow for the charity the Distressed Gentlefolks Aid Association (DGAA Homelife), 2-6pm. E2.50; children El

Stancombe is sited among the undulating Cotswolds, and the topography has been used to create an extraordinary garden of follies and secret gardens. The most remarkable area is a ten-acre secret



The Italian garden at Chiswick House, the Palladian villa in west London

garden concealed from the house by thick woodland. The history of the garden is sketchy but it is believed that the 19thcentury owner, a vicar, David Edwards, created it as a love nest. A path runs from the main garden to a valley and then to woodland, where it plunges into a tunnel. On the far side of the tunnel are roses and yet more tunnels, a Doric temple and a steep hill. A lake is enclosed by willow, oak, copper beech, horse chestnut and poplar. In the main garden there is an abundance of roses including the new 'Constance Finn', which was bred for the centenary of DGAA Homelife. It is a floribunda with a spicy scent and up to !! dusty pink flowers per stem. For more information about the rose contact the charity on 0171-396 6700.

Chiswick House, Burlington Lane, London W4 2RP (0181-995 0508) Five miles west of central London, off

A4. Open all year, 8.30am-dusk. Free The twelfth Earl of Burlington recently opened the magnificent cascade at Chiswick House, so completing what his

ancestors had tried and failed to do 260 years before. Most of the credit for this should go to English Heritage, which installed modern pumping systems, bought with funds from the National Lottery, to get the water feature to work. The cascade has a fall of 2.5m and is 1.5m wide. It was designed and built by William Kent in 1738, but the pumping system was not up to the job. In a letter to her mother at the time, the Earl's daughter wrote: "I was up on Saturday to see the chain pump work up the spring. The water comes in to the river very fast but it dries up in a minute."

Chiswick House is a Palladian villa, built in 1729, surrounded by stunning landscape. There is woodland, an Italian garden, a large lake, parterres and, closer by the house, more formal gardens with avenues of cypresses and of mon-head acacias. The conservatory is a Victorian addition. One of the best-loved areas of the garden is a white porticoed temple beside a circular pond, which is sur-

rounded by orange trees in white tubs. ... JANE OWEN



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Tailor-made for a Hardy annual

Jane Owen discovers why the dressmaker and designer has a horror of lady gardeners

ir Hardy Amies is to political correctness what King Herod was to child welfare. Age, which has mellowed the Cotswold stone of his converted schoolhouse in Oxfordshire has not had the same effect on the 87 You must be snobbish," he says.

those bright plants — busy lizzies — in the garden. And I hate herbaceous borders - they're like ladies whose hats have too many flowers."
The sideswipe is aimed at Gertrude Jekyll, the Edwardian goddess of colour schemes and iceous borders, and at professional lady gardeners "who never admit when they don't know some-

thing. It's penis envy you know -

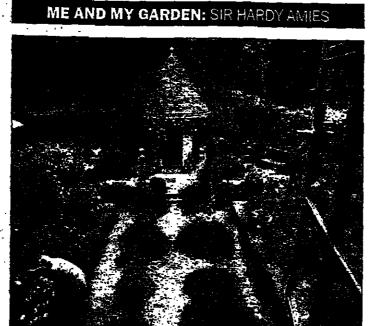
For instance, you must never have

they cut off everything in sight" .-.. This momentary peevishness may have something to do with the fact that Sir Hardy blames the demise of a specimen Primula auricula 'Hardy Amies' on a certain lady gardener. The plant is worth being irritated about: a black flower with a dazzling white centre circle, or "paste", against the pale green leaves.

The auricula passion — one he shares with George Harrison -began at the Chelsea Flower Show many years ago when he met Brenda Hyatt, an expert in these wonderful plants. Having, presum-ably, forgiven her for being a lady gardener, he learnt from her all he knows about the plant, from repotting to propagation. It was Ms Hyatt who named the gorgeous

black auricula after Sir Hardy.
From a south-facing bench in his
small walled garden, Sir Hardy directs his gardener, Kenneth Mildenhall, known as "Sam". The garden has been Sam's life for the past three years, and Sir Hardy's

passion for the past 25 years. There is no lawn - just gravel and stone paving with a central path leading up to a fine stone-tiled pavilion in the style of a dovecote. Tailored balls of bay, rosemary cut to show its "legs", lavender, roses and clematis mingle with tulips. There are white tobacco plants, Anneka Rice,



A path of gravel and stone paving leads to a stone-tiled pavilion

including Nicotiana sylvestris, whose scent perfumes the walled garden on summer evenings. It is all Sir Hardy's design.

"I don't even know how to sew a dress," says the man who has been dressing the seriously rich for the past 51 years, and I am not a dirt gardener but I have taught Sam all he knows." Roses were Sir Hardy's first love — crimson ones growing in his father's suburban Wembley garden. Now Sir Hardy has a collection of 160 roses including his favourite red, pink and whitestriped Rosa mundi, which was first recorded 500 years ago.

is protestations at never lifting a green finger come undone when he admits to assiduous deadheading, which really amounts to pruning — "a light shaping in the late autumn and then again in spring". The rose collection lives with the auriculas a few hundred yards from Sir Hardy's main home, in the garden of what he calls "the Barn" — actually a grand spread including tennis court and greenhouses.

Having arrived for drinks at one house, an arm is offered and there is a gentle stroll across the village to the Barn for further drinks, passing on the way the enchanting Cotswold cottage where Sir Hardy's staff live. His sister, Rosemary, lives in the village too, as does

The auriculas live on a purposebuilt stand under the eaves of the so-called barn. They hate the rain but they can take frost," Sir Hardy says. I have about 120 show auriculas which have to be reported every year. They look their best when they are four years old. They have to be watered from below. They like plenty of light but no direct sun, and they like some shade. But they hate heat." And he pots them in the Brenda Hyatt recommended mix of loam, peat, periite, silver sand, slow-release fertiliser, charcoal, lime and gamma dust.

Plant obsessions are one thing. It is a rare talent that can make a useful garden which keeps up its appearance at every season. Sir Hardy says his main influences came from "the upper classes". As he puts it, having gone away to learn near-perfect French and German, he became a Deb's Delight and set about learning the language of the upper classes. He also drank in upper-class garden influ-ences and adopted the maxim that flowers should never be seen from the house. "Aspect is terribly important and

you have to decide what you are going to do in a garden and where you are going to sit - a garden should be used, not just looked at." And, from his upstairs bathroom window, he points out the southfacing bench where he has his evening drink. Even in February.



تعكدًا من المذجل

Sir Hardy Amies studies his collection of roses and auriculas in his garden in Oxfordshire



The black-flowered Primula auricula 'Hardy Amies'

WEEKEND TIPS

fashioned and shrub roses. shortening back flowered shoots to a healthy bud or side shoot. Watch for the gingery spotting of rust on roses, mahonias and hypericums. Spray if necessary. ■ Keep thirsty perennials, such as phlox and delphiniums, well watered before they will. ■ Divide clumps of bearded irises of four years old or more. Replant only the fattest rhizomes.

just on the surface and 9in apart. with the rhizome facing south to catch the sun. ■ Cut out flowered stems of Euphorbia robbiae at ground level when the Bowers have

faded completely. ■ Summer prune apples and pears, to allow the sun to ripen the fruit more fully.

Stop cucumbers at the desired height and stop fruiting side-Take off male flowers and those on the main stem. Shade in hot

Cive ample water to courgettes, tomatoes, celety,



Divide and replant irises

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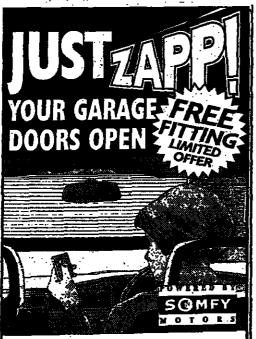
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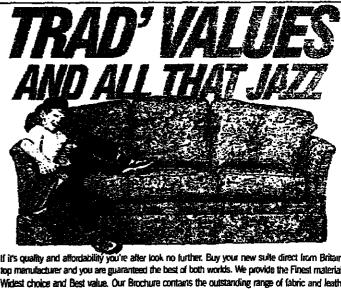
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Jane Owen visits the sixth garden festival in Chaumont-sur-Loire and finds bizarre ideas for small gardens

Winners in the space race

dening in small spaces and it will drive you up the wall. The Festival International des Jardins at Chaumont-sur-Loire in Show what Glyndebourne is to a rave. It is, in the words of Jean-Paul Pigeat, who started the annual extravaganza of 30 dramatic show gardens. "a cauldron of ideas and

This year, the festival's sixth, the gardens range from a dony derelict caravan oozing dampness and vegetation (by the sexy cult figure of French teenage life, Macha Makeief) to a serious rock-and-

raked pebble Zen garden.
As always at these events, an unconscious theme has emerged two actually. One is the use of the feathery plumes of bronze and green fennel in almost every planting scheme and the other is about

gardening in small spaces.

The latter theme could be revolutionised by an idea from the green-haired Jarvis Cocker of the garden world, Patrick Blanc, He has planted his gardens up the sides of three free-standing walls of three to four metres high.

Moss and liverwort cling to the walls and ferns dangle their fronds towards the pools in which the walls stand, while study of white and colour come from saxifraga. Geranium macrorrhizum album Spessart', Campanula portenschlagiana, Heuchera 'Palace Purple' and the exotic succulent, beschorneria. These living walls drip with moisture from a leaking pipe at the top of each structure. The nearest nature comes to this effect is along the deep narrow Cornish lanes where the banks and drystone walls ooze fecundity, or the strange Etruscan roads cut deep into the rock in an area north of Rome.

The technique mastered by M Blane and his partner, architect Michel Mangematin, involves using waterproof glue to stick felt to a



Star attractions this year include a

PVC surface. Pockets are cut into the felt and filled with soil and see plant labels and plants close up. The designers, Yves Luthi, Vincent plants, and the surrounding area

with mosses and liverworts. The walls took several years to establish - contrary to what lawn buffs may used in a limited space think, growing moss is not easy. on a south-facing wall.
Another exhibit,
"Babylones" by Beatrice Fauny and Benoit You need a constant water supply - any of the widely available "leaking hose" systems will do — and dappled shade to help the moss Another of the Chaumont exhib-

its is formed by two blocks of giant green pigeon holes. These run parallel to each other across a small reed-enclosed pond. In each of the pigeon holes is a lined wire-mesh plant holder containing, the makers say, unusual varieties of vegetables", although many will be familiar to British gardeners tomatoes, aubergines, coriander, basil, carrot, radish, cucumber, and everything else needed for a

to establish itself.

In between the two sets of pigeon holes is a hump-back bridge of wire

Soulié and Gert Yan de Jong. have made the supporting structure from scaffolding — which could be

Sejournes, is a hanging garden which again could work well in a small area. Twelve rusty steel flower baskets are supported on stilts about three metres high. Palms (Phoenix canariensis) are planted at each corner with the planters erupting with luscious vegetation, from aga-

panthus to a range of chrysanthemum. Scaffolding is used for the supporting structure and the weight of the planters is reduced by using a lining of expanded polystyrene (which also helps protect the

ture) and polystyrene balls mixed Like Chelsea. Chaumont is more about ideas and excellence than

about selling, although exhibitors at Chelsea sometimes use it as their market 'Contrary to place for the coming year, and those at Chaumont usually re-ceive commissions what lawn based on their work at buffs think, the show. There may be more show gardens at growing Chaumont than at Chelsea, but there is far moss is not more space — there are no plant or lawn mower easy' stands, no irrigation

system displays or bookshops. And the most popular gardens are often invited back the following year. Every year, about 250 entries are received in early autumn for the 30 places. These are judged by a panel of gardeners and designers, includthe head gardener at

an entrant has the technical and or her exhibit looking good from now until October.

The budget is tight: Fr2,000 (about £2,100) for the designer and Fr80,000 (£84,000) maximum to create the garden, awarded by Chaumont, which receives regional grants. These are modest figures compared with Chelsea, which gives no money to its show gardens but estimates that some gardens cost up to £100,000.

One of the most expensive gardens at Chaumont this year is by the Japanese landscaper Takano. who works on vast municipal projects in Japan, North America and France in everything from snow and ice to mosaic. At Chaumont, he has used pebbles, stones and bricks to form a racing whirlood of water over three stone spirals. The source of the water is ten metres up an oak tree, with the water allowed to pour along a chain to the highest point of the

Takano's fame certainly helped to ease budgetary problems. "Volunteers have flown in from Japan to help with construction," Takano told me after he'd asked what time I was starting work on his garden.

ne of the most surprising gardens at the show appears at first to be an impenetrable bamboo jungle. Against the beech hedge that surrounds this and all the gardens you suddenly see a tiny dirt path. This leads through the jungle to a soft, bubble-like greenhouse with a pool at its centre that is straddled by a rusty metal footbridge. Random bamboo poles prop up the greenhouse from the inside, echoing the jungle outside. It is the brainchild of Duncan Lewis, a former Royal College of Art student, and architect Atelier de

l'Entrepôt. This, like several other gardens, appeared last year, but has been adapted because the show organisers felt that the planting

had to be improved. The organisers also asked Michele Elsair and Jean-Pierre Delettre to continue showing their "Carrousel d'eau" because it was so popular last year. It is a strange water garden in five sections, each with its own pattern of water: regular drips from five short hoses radiate ripples in one pool, bubbles erupt lazily from another and waves from another. Each section has large metal plant-

Another garden retained from 1996 by popular demand is Judy and David Drew's living willowwall, in which they have created a willow-stem trellis in a geometric pattern of walkways, with the

Visitors all want to know how it is done so here is the designers' recipe: drive willow stakes into the ground at the end of March and weave them into the desired pattern. And that's it. A rich clay soil usually guarantees success.

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Ripples, waves and bubbles of the "Carrousel d'eau" water garden

GARDEN FESTIVAL FACT FILE

■ The author travelled with Thomson Citybreaks (0171-200 8900). Prices from £229 per person per night based on B&B and twin room sharing, and include Eurostar or flights from Heathrow. Hotel Scribe, I Rue Scribe (00 33 0144 712 424) has a £17 per night single-room supplement

■ For more information about the Festival International des Jardins, which runs until October 19. or for information about entering next year's show, contact Conservatoire International des Parcs et Jardins et du Paysage, Ferme du Château, 41/50 Chaumont-sur-Loire (00 33 0.254 209 922), Central retrue on Chaicau, 41130 Chairmont-sur-Loire (vo 53 0.54 207 422). Central reservation number for groups, which will sometimes be given an English-speaking guide: 00 33 0148 048 459. Group price: Fr35 (about £3.70), otherwise Fr45 (£4.80). Telephone ahead to find out about practical workshops, which are arranged for most days. Price Fr549 (£58) including lunch, or Fr449 (£47) for horticultural societies.

■ There is a regular train service to Chaumont-sur-Loire (sometimes having to change at Blois) from Gare Austerlitz in Paris. Chaumont-sur-Loire is 17km from Blois and 185km from Paris. Motorway Al0 exit. Blois or Ambroïse. It is also a 45-minute drive from Villandry, which has one of the most famous vegetable gardens in the world. Villandry is 15km west of Tours (00 33 0247 500 209).

ers containing a monoplanting of anything from duckweed to willow leaves forming a canopy.

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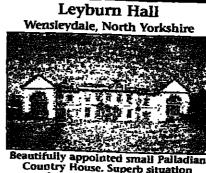
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FARNINGHAM KENT FARCHLY GREATHY, RAEAN E Catry rendered set in 5 Acres of softs the Derents Valley, superity assumation comparing of 3 merg, 3 beds, 5 ft bed, a 22t by 25th th åt in m. Games gotos, dressing on å 5th bed, overy room with views. Bergind of Fire the Instactional grounds with 5 Frod & Boorling Green. Fronte dover protected by original. Statistical on the edge of the vge. Bosy metch of Mercy & 8 ft. 7 mis to 7 keets. 15 mis to 1 Landon, offers or £725,500 Tel:01322 864577

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For sale freehold as a whole, or could split Guide Price: ES25,000 Blenkin & Co 29 High Petergate, York. 01904-671672

FOR SALE

SCHOOLHOUSES

VAL FACT FILE

insulation. And check that your insurance will cover items in an outdoor building. Now comes the fun part: customising it. All those happy hours to be spent

house, apple store, hobbyhouse, garden room ... the shed, for all its size, is a richly versatile building. Ask George Shields. Last week he showed off his motorised shed on wheels capable of doing 55mph. The stationary version may look humble and plain, but it is an asset well A shed can be tucked away discreetly in a corner, or it can enhance the garden by filling an awkward, ugly space. Essential requirements are a flat, hard surface and enough George Shields's 55mph space to open the door. Unless

SHEDS

Barrow Deep, Eastbury, Hungarford, Charming Grade II issted former headmaster's house attached to the old village school house, with an

re garden. Three bedrooms, ba

SELLING

Points

GARDEN STORE, tool room, workshop, den, dog-

worth acquiring.

you are keen on DIY or have

fussy specifications, there is little point in building your

own. DIY and garden centres stock a range of wooden, flat-

pack, self-assembly sheds which will work out cheaper if

you consider the savings on

your time. The smallest oft by

uses for the shed to help

define style, size, and door

and window configurations.

THE GROUND should be

level, firm and watertight.

Although self-assembly sheds

come ready treated, apply

more preservative to the un-

derside of the floor before

laying it. Most sheds come

unlined, so consider adding

Before buying, consider the

4ft sheds start at about £120.

garden shed on wheels

putting up shelves, ledges, hooks and pegs so you can make pleasing arrangements of boxes of nails and tools. Such attention to detail impresses potential house buyers, who will assume you have applied the same diligence to the upkeep of the house. For the same reason, do not ignore the exterior. A ram-

shackle shed may look quaintly rural to you, but to a buyer may look worryingly uncared for. Simple wood stain is smart, while picking out the door and window frames in the same colour as the house adds style. Alternatively, you could brighten an unremarkable garden or dull view by painting the shed in bold, vibrant colours. A brick-laid path around the base, tubs of flowers or trellis screen can turn it into a garden feature.

HELEN PICKLES

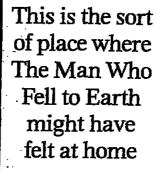
Alex O'Connell marvels at minimalist principles used to create maximum effect

Urban living stripped bare

wash up before they've even finished eating and hang up their clothes as they peel them off, and those who allow dishes to pile Empire State high and zarpet their floor with the latest ready-to-wear collection. Minimalist housing is made for the former and the accurately titled, modernist home The Building (just try asking for directions in the local fish'n chip shop) has been built for the sort who iron their boxer shorts, label their drawers and would like to Detrox

"Minimal, luminous with a Zen-like quality is not a phrase I'd use to describe southeast London, let alone Deptford High Street. So it is fair to say that award-winning architect Mark Guard's twostorey, two-bedroom minimalist design (originally a 19th-century coach house) is an musual find. Reached down a cobbled side street, wedged in between a modern estate and in sight of Thomas Archer's St Paul's church, it is a tribute to form and function.

Potential buvers should probably not take their grandparents to view. Guard's team specialise in the development an "elegant, functional, modern aesthetic". So the floors are a mixture of concrete and linoleum and the gravelly courtyard and roof terrace owe



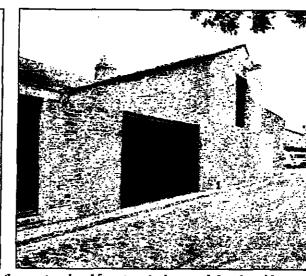
their ambience to a particular municipal car park I know. Having said that, when the church bells chime and the sun sets in the early evening, the shadows on the white walls reminded me of Bruce Chatwin's photos of Morocco. This is the sort of place where the pale, well-confured David to Earth might finally have felt at home.

It is a topsy-turvy house on the ground floor there are two bedrooms and a bathroom. Although the second bedroom and bathroom are smallish, the master bedroom is light and stark - little wonder it has been used for futuristic fashion shoots and pop videos. The owners have a bed so big you could play human noughts and crosses in it and still get a good night's sleep.

arlier in the year, the sheets were ruffled by the pop-star Peter Andre, who used the house as backdrop for his I Feel You video. So tanned boys there are, but tall-boys and chests of drawers are nowhere to be found. The shower and stainless steel lavatory behind the bed are the only other solid objects in the "space".

The shower is so powerful it could scrub up a tar-coated Vietnamese pot-bellied pig in a mo, although it has no doors (a trait of minimalist architec-ture), so the bashful should learn to whistle or enrol on an "improve your self-image"

But why go away when you can clear your head across the courtyard in the "shiatsu" room? Climb onto the futon and listen to the sound of silence (bar a few lorries chugging down the high street). The spiritually challenged should buy a long table and turn it into a dining room. The courtyard itself is surrounded by a four-metre high wall; silver birches and Scots pines grow in between the



Sliding glass panels in the living area let you look out over the courtyard and forget you're in a south London side street

gravel; fairground fish swim in a mini-stream and an outdoor shower allows you to recreate the freedom of the nudist beach in your own back garden. It is the perfect place to recite haiku with Ray-Banwearing Buddhist monks.

Upstairs, the Living Area has sliding double-glazed panels looking out over the courtyard, and the less than elegant Deptford skyline. At the moment it is dominated by a zebra-skin rug, a long, glass bench, and a shapely orange, plastic chair made by the Seventies Italian designer re-sponsible for the white, spin-me-round seat in Ken Russell's Tommy. Book-hoarders beware: there are no open bookshelves. Although the ample cupboard space might allow the prospective buyer to hide those vanity publishing titles, the opportunity to impress high-brow dinner guests with that all-too-visible copy of Kant's Critique of Pure Reason (German edition) may

pass you by. The kitchen is all glass and stainless steel. A sliding floor-

to-ceiling panel behind the sink creates a disconcerting sense of wall-lessness. The round sink reminded me of a bad trip to the dentist. I wanted to spit pink mouthwash nervously into it. Instead I admired the Bosch multifunction oven, although I'm not sure if you're meant to eat in a house like this, let alone rustle up a lasagne. I wouldn't be surprised if the owners wired themselves up to a glucose drip when they get a

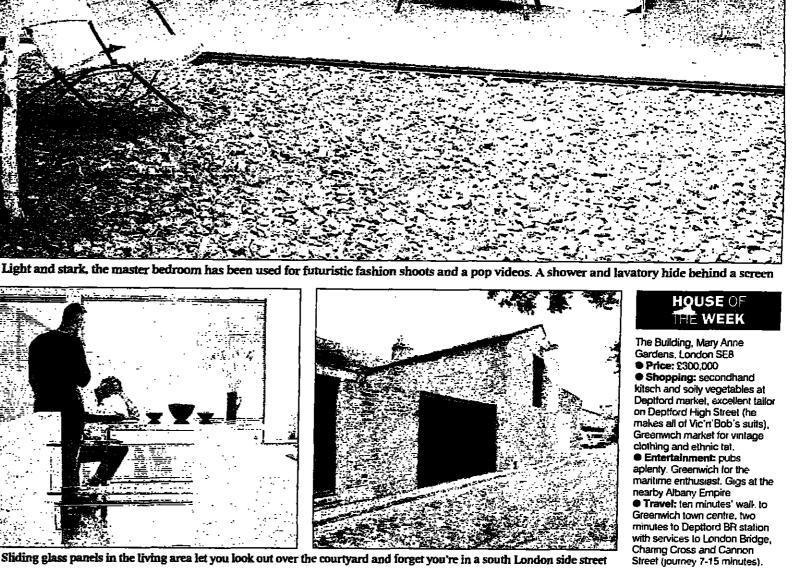
bit peckish. This is the futuristic world of Zanussi promos, where everyone wears Issey Miyake and severe-looking glasses to wor-ship at the stripped-pine shrine of hip. Their idea of a Good Night In: tweaking each

Brian Eno. Never mind chucking out your chintz, this house turns the phrase "fully-furnished" on its head and pushes it to the back of one of its expansive, hidden cupboards.

other with natural wood chop-

sticks, in time to the wails of

Agent: Winkworths, Blackheath 0181-852 0999.





Kitchen in glass and steel

WILTSHIRE

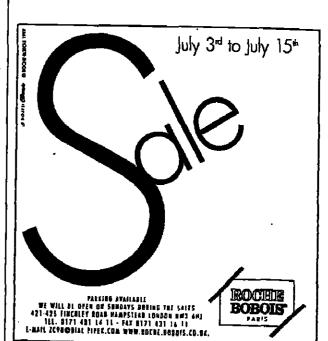
PROPERTY PROFILE: WILTSHIRE

A weekly look at the property market around Britain

Kennet Long Barrow and Salisbury, the rolling countyside of the Salisbury Plain and the downs ... Wiltshire is a haven for historians and rural aficionados alike. Commuters are lured by fast train services from towns like Pewsey, while second-home owners appreciate its good road links, including the A303, with the M4 to the north. Sought after areas include the Pewsey Vale and Marlborough Downs, and villages such as Easton Royal and Bishops Cannings, according to Humberts in Pewsey. The market: definitely hot, with agents quoting rises of between 10 and 20 per cent in the past year. Dreweatt Neate in Marlborough has 40 properties on its books in the Marlborough area and 800 applicants, and reckons shortage of stock is fuelling rises. Many deals end up as sealed bids or best and final offers, according to John D. Wood. The market fell by up to 40 per cent between 1989 and 1992, says Strutt & Parker in Salisbury. Prices began to rise in mid-1995, and are now above peak 1988 prices for good country houses.

Attractions: Stonehenge, Avebury, the West Expect to pay: £155,000 to £180,000 for a threebedroom cottage; £350,000 to £400,000 for a farmhouse with two acres and £600,000-plus for a medium-size country house, according to Savills in Salisbury. Savills reckons you will pay 15 per cent extra for properties in the Nadder Valley, and 10 per cent extra for those within a few miles of the M4 and A303. Around three quarters of sales are to Londoners, many looking for second homes, says Strutt & Parker. Significant sales: Dreweatt Neate was swamped with calls after the Old Rectory, in Great Cheverell, south of Devizes, appeared in Country Life. Three weeks and 58 viewers later, the house, priced at £500,000, went to best and final offers, and sold for closer to £600,000. Outlook: good, says Savills, which expects the county to hold its own over the next few months. while Humberts reckons demand will continue to outstrip supply even if 20 per cent more properties come on to the market.

> AMANDA LOOSE ● Next Saturday's property profile: Lincolnshire



How to avoid that sinking feeling

Homes by the sea

may seem romantic

but they can be

__ fraught with

hazards, says Emma Haughton

ast November, East Yorkshire County Council arrived at Sue Earle's threebedroom Victorian farmhouse, took a few measurements, then gave her four days to leave

and ordered her to demolish her

home. The house, a mile south of Mappleton on the Holderness coast, was just four metres from the cliff edge, and considered too dangerous to inhabit.

Ms Earle, who now lives in a caravan, is suing for compensation. She believes that sea defences built

in 1991 to protect Mappleton in-

creased the rate of erosion on her

land from a couple of metres a year to six or seven.

"They built two rock groynes at Mappleton. This stops sediment coming onto the beach, so the cliff erodes faster because there is no beach to protect it," she says. "In one place we lost 20 metres in one year. I knew I'd lose the house eventually, but if the rate of erosion had stayed as it was, we would have had another ten to 15 years. I feel very angry. Nobody should lose their home to the sea and get nothing." She says it will cost her at

least £50,000 to build a new house. At least Ms Earle always knew her home was in danger and has some chance of compensation. Others, seduced by romantic prospects of a home by the sea, pay a premium for the privilege only to find it turn into a liability when their houses are threatened by erosion or flooding, or they have to pay high maintenance bills to keep out the rigours of salt and sea, with window frames and doors requiring constant attention.

"Some people put their life savings into a seaside bungalow and lose everything," says Chris Matthews, design engineer for East Yorkshire, which has the fastest eroding coastline in Europe: a recent report suggested the council should simply allow some villages to disappear into the sea.

"We hear stories where people have been told that the house they are buying 50 metres from the edge will last 1,000 years, but ten years are those on the coast of K Anglia, the South East, and the Thames Wash.



The encroaching coastline, in 1994 (above) and in 1972 (below)

down the line their front door is right on the cliff top.

Problems with coastal homes are not isolated to East Yorkshire. According to Diane Dumashie, a chartered surveyor specialising in coastal development, Britain is tilting along a line running roughly from Norfolk and the Wash to Bristol, with everything to the north rising slightly, and everything to the south falling. "It's a very small drop," she says, "but it is occurring."

Small it may be, but add in the increased number of storms over the past ten years and the forecast 40cm rise in sea levels around Britain over the next 50 years, and you have a significant problem, says Dr Andrew Długolecki, a general manager of insurers General Accident and an authority on global warming. The slight rise in the land will cancel out sea level rises in northerly areas such as Scotland, but in the South East it will be doubly worse because the land is sinking and the sea level is rising," he says. "Severe storms can raise the sea level even higher than 40cm above its normal height for short periods, with terrible results."

The northeast coast of England, however, is especially vulnerable, largely due to its particular rock formation. Other areas most at risk are those on the coast of Kent. East Anglia, the South East, and around the Thames Wash, including homes beside tidal rivers.



Unfortunately, homeowners may find little help is at hand if the worst does happen. With storms, flooding and water damage accounting for nearly a third of all claims in England, according to a NatWest Insurance Services report, insurers are increasingly reluctant to insure homes in high-risk areas, especially if the property has a history of claims. And if the problem is coastal erosion, you are unlikely to be covered at all.

"The insurance industry is spending a lot of money and time trying to make sure it can still cover people in high-risk areas," Mr Długolecki says, "but it does depend how much the Government and coastal authorities are prepared to invest in ensuring these coastlines are defended."

Just how much will be spent on coastal defence is also a headache for Vivienne Jolliffe and her part-



Down and out: Sue Earle in the ruins of her clifftop farmhouse, for which she is seeking compensation

ner John Parker, who live in one of three former Admiralty cottages perched on the cliff edge in the hamlet of Seatown, on the Dorset coast. Their view of the sea, framed by cliffs and the imposing peak of Golden Cap, is magnificent, and from the living room you can hear the sea sighing and rolling.

But how much longer they can enjoy it all has hung in the balance

since a large piece of their garden fell away three years ago, leaving the cliff edge just five metres from the house. Their fate now rests in the hands of West Dorset District Council and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF). Unless MAFF grants the council the £300,000 needed to provide sea defences, the owners

may be forced to abandon their

homes, each worth more than £100,000 — and they would not be eligible for compensation.

eligible for compensation.

Others, however, have no prospect at all of a coastal cavalry coming to the rescue. "There is the expectation that if something goes wrong, somebody will do something about it." says John Ribey, principal engineer at Scarborough Borough Council, where four years

ago a hotel slipped off the cliffs of the North Yorkshire town. "A lot of people think there is an authority they can turn to if things go wrong, but there isn't. Coastal councils have a responsibility to lock at coastal protection, but no obligation to put right any problems."

coastal protection, but no obligation to put right any problems."

MAFF, which provides grants
for sea defence (this includes measures such as sea walls or diff
drainage, to lower the water table),
demands that the cost of any work
is less than the value of any
property or assets it will save, and
that any scheme will not have a
detrimental environmental impact.
There is now a presumption to let
nature take its course rather than
embark on hard engineering." Mr
Ribey says. "If you protect the area
concerned, it may have an adverse
effect on another area down the

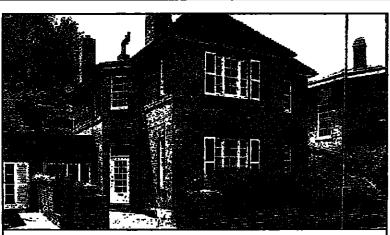
Even if your home is protected by established sea defences, you should not be complacent. With many defences more than 100 years old and built at a lower level than anyone imagined would be overcome, it is likely they will be breached with increasing frequency over the coming years.

o what should homebuyers do to protect themselves from making a purchase they might live to regret? If you are going to buy a property in a high-risk area, get a full structural survey from a qualified local surveyor. Ms Dumashie says, and be prepared to bring in a specialist surveyor if necessary.

She also suggests you do some homework of your own. The local Environment Agency office will have plans for coastal defence and flood control, while the council engineering department should have details of local erosion rates over a number of years:

In addition, it is wise to check whether you will be able to get sufficient building and contents insurance. According to David Lennan, head of retail insurance at NatWest Insurance Services, many insurers will negotiate tailor-made policies which may, for instance, exclude damage by flooding. In which case it may come down to taking a calculated risk. "Lots of people live in flood areas but they're prepared for the worst," he says. "They have stone floors and rugs rather than expensive fitted carpets, and they stick to furniture they can move easily in a flood."

This may be fine for the stouthearted, but is unlikely to offer much peace of mind to anyone who has read Mill on the Floss.



ST. JOHN'S WOOD, NW6. Freehold. Price Guide: £725,000

An impressive and unmodernised house currently arranged as 2 self contained flats.

5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 shower rooms, 4 reception rooms, kitchen, utility room, garage, off street purking and garden.

ST. JOHN'S WOOD: 0171-722 5556



WEST PUTNEY, SW15.

An immaculately modernised and refurbished period house in a sought after location. 6 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, conservatory / family room, kitchen.

2 reception rooms, conservatory /amily room, kitchen, cloakroom, cellar/utility room, off street parking and 23m (75) garden.

Price Guide: £875,000

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KENSINGTON CHURCH STREET, W8. Freehold share Price Guide: £485,000

A maisonette on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors with a roof terrace. 4 bedrooms,
2 bathrooms, reception room, letchen, utility room and 2 cloakrooms.

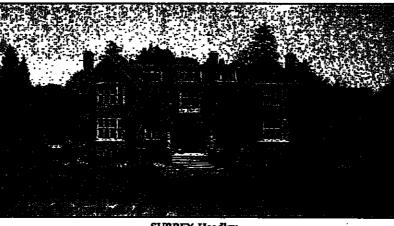
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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, Ludgershall. Price Guide: £165,000

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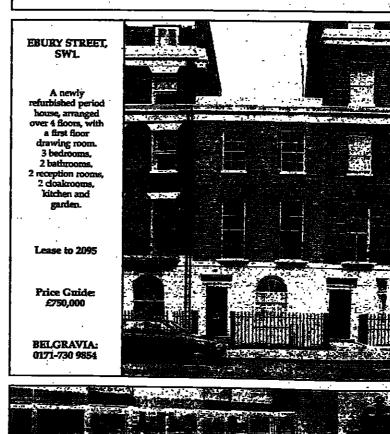
OXFORD: 01865-311522



BERKSHIRE, Wokingham. Price Guide: £315,000

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wchang

On an Irish march where the only foe is a blister

Ronald Faux on

why County

Mayo attracts a very different

kind of marcher

ne contrast could not be sharper the example more that the Drumcree march ieft its hateful wake in Northern treland, across the norder in County Mayo shore than 1.000 Roman Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Shintoists, believers and the religiously uncommitted marched together for no political reason.

They marched simply for companionship and the sheer delight of setting one foot in front of the other. From more than 20 countries as far distant as the Falkland Islands and Japan, and aged from eight to more than 80, they were the long, short and the tali, overweight and underweight surders and shufflers, all taking part in the Castlebar International Fran Days' Walk. For 31 years this famous meeting

has brought together marching enthusiasts to ramble en masse along country lanes and over boggy mountainsides, following routes up to 40 kilometres (25 miles) long: chattering, arguing, nursing their blisters together and, at the end of the day, sending local sales of Guinness into a ballistic curve.

There are no losers no winners. No one is interested in your title, rank or religion, your class or your creed. We are plain and simple people who enjoy walking and feel it does us good," says Ernie Sweeney, a founder-walker of the Castlebat event. I would invite everyone from both sides of the divide in Drumcree to come to Castlebar, swap stories, share their their blistered feet and get to know one another. That has always been



a sure way to understanding one

another as human beings."

Mr Sweeney, an Irish Catholic. met his wife Susana, a Dutch Lutheran, when he helped her out of a bog on one of the walks. Cupid, it is said, flies low over Castlebar and the walks have sparked numerous marriages, strong friendships, all in keeping with the slogan of the International Marching League: Nos Lungat Ambulare

(May Walking Bring Us Together). A contingent from the Dutch army and air force led the opening parade, marching through the damp streets of Castlebar behind the town band playing the Stars and Stripes. The stream of walkers carried the flags of a dozen or more nations. The town was decked out with bunting and shop-window displays welcomed the walkers. The Chamber of Trade was convinced that Castlebar had been put on the international map by its

walks. One group arrived by coach from Czechoslovakia after four days on the road. Marchers from Japan, conspicuous in their white gloves, included Yoshiko Chikuma, a widow in her eighties and a Castlebar regular. Despite two hip replacements, she clocked up 80 kilometres over the four days.

licemen and professional soldiers on holiday from England have over the years been counted among the walkers. "The whole essence of this gathering is good companionship," one of the organisers says. "We have no time for tribal attitudes. It's ironic that the marches here and in Drumeree should take place on the same day, for such very different reasons and with such opposite results."

The walks began not for altruistic reasons but simply to lift the town's image and tourist industry.

Make moving

a pet project

Tim Cotton explains how to reduce the

stress on your pets when you move house

Mr Sweeney recalled the first Castlebar march in 1966, when a handful of folk tramped through the town to the amazement and sniggers of the public at large. "Many locals were farmers who covered huge distances on foot in their working day. They could not

see the point," he says. Numbers built up over the years. Castlebar entered the calendar of the International Marching League and contracts were made with Nijmegen in the Netherlands, whose annual walk attracts an entry of 43,000.

*Events like those are supermarket marches; we prefer to think of would be hard for Castlebar to absorb such numbers," says Mr Sweeney a year-round walker who has mastered the technique of avoiding blisters by covering his toes with Vaseline, dousing his socks with baby powder and encasPain: some of the 2,000 Orangemen who marched at Drumcree before the riots began last Sunday ing his feet in a large pair of wellington boots.

with a daily choice of 20km or 40km road marches or a 30km ramble along Castlebar's maze of fuchsia-lined country lanes leading up into the mountains, from which the view across the fractured coastline of County Mayo is stunning. The pattern is for the ramble-

The walks were slickly organised

leader to set the pace and for everyone to follow with occasional stops for cold drinks, lunch and for stragglers to catch up. Walk cards are punched by officials at intervals along the way and the correct number of punch marks will win the walker a medal. Some strode silently along, hypnotised by the metronomic thud of the boots in front. Others chatted with whoever happened to be walking alongside

them. A Belgian was explaining the current problems with the Walloon community; behind him a woman described the best way to make a syrup pudding; and further down the line a walker cursed the pair of boots he was wearing for the

The walkers were a cheerful, gregarious crowd with as strong a sense of community and purpose as

the marchers of Drumcree, but celebrating only their delight in one of the simplest, least expensive and most enjoyable pastimes.

As Drumcree and Northern Ireland began clearing up an aftermath of broken glass; burned-out vehicles and battered hopes, Castlebar marchers prepared for the grand finale — the Blister Ball, to which most strode and just a few limped. Elaine Devereux, the head of ceremonies, was happy with the

vay things had gone this year. She asked: "Could you please let them know there is some good

A VET WRITES

We adopted a 14-month-Q old car from a rescue home eight weeks ago. The problem is that he claws at the waitpaper eausing a lot of damage. We have given him a scratching post and several toys, but it has: I helped. We tell him "55" but this doesn't have any effect either. Can you suggest anyining please?

A kescue cats (and dogs) arrive complete with all their virtues and vices. Your cat could have been taken to the rescue home because he clawed the wallpaper in his previous nome. Reformation is possible, but if he has been a sinner for a long time, reeducation will take a while. Saving "no" is not likely to help. A water pistol is more effective. Repeated and unex-

claws the walls will get the message across. Cats don't like to walk on cooking foil so put strips of this on the floor beneath his scratching points. Orange peel on top of the foil is an olfactory off-putter which will also keep him away from the wallpaper. That's the negative approach. The scratching post is a positive factor and you can make this more attractive by scenting it with cat-nip. Feed your cat close to the post to persuade

pected showers whenever he

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DOGS

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utter the cat's paws, microchip the dog and keep the goldfish in a scampi container. Not advice from an outlandish, barbaric cookbook, but tips given by yets all over the country to people with pets who are moving house.

"Unlike human beings, you cannot tell your pets you are moving," says Ron Kirkby, chairman of the Kings-ton-upon-Thames branch of the RSPCA. "People don't realise that moving house is just as stressful for

There are many tips, but the best advice is always give pets special attention. Pamper them, make a fuss of them — and keep them safe."

Dogs are pack animals who stay with whoever they feel comfortable with. As long as they are well looked after when their owners move, they will readily accept and adapt to their new environment.

Cats, on the other hand, are territorial creatures. They regard a place as their home or patch and, when their owners move, they often struggle to adapt to their new territory. If they find they cannot stamp their authority on their new home, they yearn for the territory they once ruled. They should, therefore, be kept in a small room

containing familiar objects for between five days and four weeks, and slowly be allowed to explore the rest of the house. When they are let outside for the first time, make sure they are hungry, then you can rattle their feeding bowls and they will

come back promptly. Most vets recommend smearing a cat's paws with butter as it is let out. It will lick its paws (all cats like the taste of butter) and this will tell it that the new house is a suitable place to adopt as its new territory.

ther family pets present fewer headaches, but you must take care when transporting goldfish. You need to put them inside a scampi container, sold in frozenfood shops, as they are made of polystyrene which allows oxygen to permeate, so preventing the fish suffocating. But all animals suffer some degree of stress when moving home - how much varies according

to the individual temperament. "For does it's more of an adventure they have a new path or garden to sniff. But cats usually try to escape. Even when you keep them in, they try to hide," says animal behaviourist Dr

Roger Mugford. Among the places a cat may hide in



a new home is the washing-machine, as a client of Harrogate vet Avril Johnson discovered. The elder daughter of a family which had just moved into a new house threw her clothes into the washing-machine and turned it on. Ten minutes later her mother returned and found the cat whizzing around the machine. He luckily survived the ordeal.

But not all pets and owners are as fortunate. Suzanne Thomas, a vet from York, relates the death of a labrador on the day his owner moved home. "The owner settled the dog in a small room, but one of the removal men inadvertently opened the door and he rushed out into the road. He was hit by a lorry and killed."

"Many of the dead cats and dogs we find have run away after moving house," Mr Kirkby says. "If for no other reason than this, we advise everyone to have their pets microchipped." This is a way of name-tagging. A microchip containing the owner's name and address is fixed beneath the pet's skin, making it

PET MOVES

cases, local authorities do not allos pets in council property. ■ Is the house overrun with fleas:

says he sees many flea-ridden pets of people who have recently moved home. Often the previous owners' pets have had fleas and, if the property has been empty for a while, it provides a good undisturbed breeding ground for them.

Consult your vet about the stress your pet is likely to suffer. Vets often prescribe tranquillisers to highly-strung pets but make sure they are given time to get over the drugs in a quiet, safe place.

Pets should always travel in salety and comment. Birds, gerbils, guinea pigs and rabbits should go in ages or hutches and cats in has If possible, ask a friend to look after ir dog or cat during the move. ■ Dogs should be kept in the house or garden until the new home is in order. Then they should be taken out, but always on a lead, to familiarise themselves with their new surroundings.

easy for a vet or RSPCA officer to identify runaways. It also resolves disputes over ownership, particularly when cats - and occasionally does return to their former homes.

"It is amazing how often cats go back to their old house," says Folkestone vet Tony Barnes. He recalls a local cat which kept returning to her old home. Eventually the new homebuyers assumed ownership. During the car's lifetime, the house was sold three times and the cat became part of the asking price.

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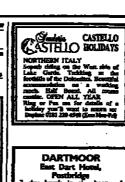
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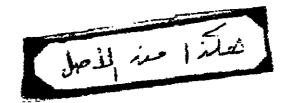
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THENESO SATURDAY TO THE TOTAL OF THE PARTY O



'After the election, I even detected a faint whiff of machismo among some of the men about not how little but how much they cried'

OUR YOUNGER son has a joke - his first and only joke in fact, and as such he fikes to tell it every day, several times a day, if at all possible, I, too, thought it was hilarious the first time because, with his parody of unchious concern and saintly lascivious eye-rolling, he bore an encanny and mercifully fleeting resem-blance to Bob Monkhouse.

"Knock knock, Mumeeeee," he says, in that peculiarly commanding way six-year-olds have "Who's there, darling?" Boo," his lips already curling with anticipation. "Boo who?" "Don't cry, it's only a joke." At which both sons clutch

their sides and crease up with laughter. They are still at the age where it is just about acceptable for boys to boo-hoo in the playground without being ostracised by their peer group. The older one, who is currently obsessed with defining what is and isn't "cool", knows that blubbing is in the second category, but since his school is not one of those establishments where a boy who cries is harangued by others for being "a weed, a wet and a gillie", tears are not yet something

Welcome to the nation of blubbers

LIFE AND SOUL

which have to be suppressed at all costs. larly about some-I wonder whether we may be turning into a nation of blubbers, I was out of the country for the election, but came back to find that the most pressing question in even the most hard-nosed left-leaning circles was "So at what point in the evening did you cry?" There were the sentimentalists who became moist-eyed when Tony Blair, with a catch in his Voice, talked about his mother not being alive to share his happiness, and the Tory-haters' tears of joy when Portillo lost his seat. No one seemed to find it in the least bit embarrassing or inappropriate that his or her response to the end of 18 years of Conservative rule was to weep. Indeed, I even detected a faint whiff of machismo among some of the men about not how little but how much

they cried. Only the children found the

idea of grown-ups boo-hooing - particu-

thing as boring as "Dad, are you really saying that Tony Blair made you cry? was the nine-yearold's response, fol-

ing insult, "Shame!" certing myself when grown-ups cry. The sight of old men

favourite exasperatmust say that i **GINNY DOUGARY** weeping is peculiarly

affecting. At the memorial service 1

attended recently, I was surrounded by crusty old fellows, sticks by their side,

tears coursing down their furrowed

cheeks, and it made me feel quite

that decades of conditioning were being overturned in that public expression of their sorrow.

I can still hear the terrible sound of my father crying. It was so profoundly shocking - in that small moment turning my whole child's world topsy-turvy - that I can, without any difficulty other than a sense, still, of confu-

sion and inarticulate fear, see myself then, hearing a howl like the cry of an animal in pain, rise from my bed, clutching my raggedy teddy, walk down the dimiy lit corridor to my parents' bedroom

Since the birth of our children, my husband has become a serial blubber. Their arrival has unlocked all the emotion that was sealed up with a padlock when he was eight or so younger, at least, than our older son is now - and it became apparent that boys don't cry. He cried, of course, when they were born, and during their first nativity plays, and whenever the older one performs something beautiful on the piano, and he is bound to blow his nose loudly when he sees the younger one in

Kellys in his class assembly next week. When our nine-year-old son was still a breastfeeding baby, my husband read Alexander Stuart's account of his young son's death from leukaemia and could not stop crying. Since then, he has

his wellies and sou wester Singin' in the

Rain with all the other Year I Gene

children and pain. The act of having children has turned him into an Everydad: every child who suffers is his child; every father who loses a son is him. The other day, while invigilating an undergraduate exam, he happened to read an article about children leaving home as young adults. One father had given up watching football on television because it made him miss his son so much. In front of 35 students, my husband was horrified to discover that his cheeks were wet.

My tears are cheap. I have even cried watching an episode of Charlie's Angels. My whole life is an exercise in cathursis. Last weekend, I wept buckets watching ian Holm's brave, naked Lear, and then I wept some more in The Railway Children - especially the bit at the end when Jenny Agutter in those great black stockings and frothy white pettionats runs down the station wailing "It's -|gulp| my Daddy!" When I asked the sixyear-old if he was okay, he said: "I'm not crying. I've just got water in my eyes."

Why changing a plug proved I could cope

Not only had he been her loving pariner and best friend. he'd also been the one who looked after the bank accounts, paid the bills and made sure everything was insured. There was very much the traditional "husband and wife partnership, where she loosed after the home and the children, and he earned the money and looked after all the financial aspects of

They had very clearly divided roles, and when he died very suddenly from a stroke, it was as if the rug had been pulled from under her feet. Not only did she have to cope with the grief of his death, but also the realisation that everything he'd taken such good care of was now her responsibility - and she had no idea how the system worked.

in the early days of their marriage he even filled her car with petrol for her. I remember once she was furious because she'd set out for the luncheon club, all dressed up, and was absolutely livid to find she'd been left without petrol. She couldn't simply go and get some - because she had no money. My lad looked after all that.

After his death weall helped as much as we could, and she relied very heavily on the partners at my father's accountancy firm. But after a while this reliance on others began to annoy us. We'd say: "Sort it out yourself, Mum. Insuring a house isn't that difficult, honestly."

ittle things would be blown out of proportion — the loss of a share certificate would become a gigantic problem, ensuring phone calls backwards and forwards to increasingly exasperated members of the family It has taken her a long time to come to terms with the fact that everything - all the money, ali the insurance, all the pensions, getting the car serviced, paying the bills - is her responsibility, and she can cope.
In a marriage or relationship we do all have set tasks

and responsibilities." says Christabel Hilliard, the welfare adviser for Cruse, the bereavement counselling organisation. "With older people, there is often a divide between the home and what are seen as

Taking on tasks done by a partner can help the bereaved to deal with the future. Diana Appleyard reports

'I sanded

all the

skirting

boards;

they look

at least I

did it'

the 'manly' responsibilities earning the money, paying the bills. Now I think those roles are much more blurred with more sharing of responsibil-ities, and often it's the woman who'll handle the money.

"But in almost every relationship each partner does have set tasks," she says. "The woman will know how the washing-machine works - the man will know how to work the mower. Often it is still the man who'll do all the practical things around the house changing plugs, basic DIY. When one partner

dies, taking on these responsibilities can seem incredibly daunting. often impossible. What we suggest is rely on someone else initially to help you — your solicitor, your accountant, friends and family — but then awful, but it is important you start to take charge. It is after all going to become part of your new life."

husband John died suddenly two years ago from a heart attack. At the time they were living in Spain, running a business together. He died sitting at home eating a meal. It was a terrible shock, and it took me quite a while to even accept what had happened,"

"We did everything together - shopping, working, cook-ing, seeing friends. He was a very practical person, and there were lots of things he wouldn't let me do. I did pay cheques into the bank account. but he looked after all the insurance — everything. I never even had to think about writing a letter. He did all that. If a plug went - he changed it. He wouldn't have dreamt of letting me do it."

After he died Joyce returned to England, where her two

live. When I got back I relied very heavily on them, and they did everything for me. My former son-in-law sorted out all my paperwork, and in a way I was letting them run my life, like John had done."

daughters, Maureen and Gill,

But after a while her family rebelled. Joyce says: "I had been leaving everything to Gill, and I could sense she was stepping back. It took me a

while to realise why."
Gill says: "I could see that she wasn't going to learn to cope on her own if I said, 'OK, Mum, I'll sort it out'. So we all employed a bit of tough love. We said, 'No, Mum, you do it. You're perfectly capable of paying your insurance or whatever.' I saw that things which in real life - such as losing a credit card - would be a bit of a prob-

lem, were becoming the end of the world for her. So we had to step back to make her cope."

Ms Hilliard says: "This is very common. When someone dies suddenly, you are completely fazed. Even people who were formerly real 'copers' go to pieces. What you have to realise is

tion to what's hap-

pened. People are very shocked and frightened, and what they do is transfer all the anxieties and fears about the bereavement onto their small problems, and create a drama. It's also a good way of getting attention if you're feeling lonely.
What you have to do is

separate the feelings. Recognise you're het up because you're bereaved - not because of this problem. Then deal with it as calmly as you can." Alison Parks's husband Steven died recently at the age of

35, leaving her with two children under four. Not only did she have his death to contend with, but her mortgage company also refused to pay off the debt because he had suffered from depression, which they claimed hadn't been referred to on his life assurance policy. "It has been a horrendous time," she says. "Money is the

biggest worry, and also looking after the children. I can't get a job because I need to care for them. If it wasn't for my Mum and Dad I don't know what I'd do." She has relied on them

But that has had its price. "My mother is driving me mad. Alison says. "They feel they really have to look after me, but I feel they're treating me as a child. My mother thinks I don't know how to do things. and she sends my father over to do them for me."

Alison is also missing Steven in lots of little ways. "The video broke recently, and was left sitting in the middle of the living room floor sur-rounded by all these wires. Steven knew how it worked. Then the garage roof leaked, and everything got soaking wet. That night I sat and cried, because I had no idea who to phone to fix it. Also there's no one to tell when things go wrong - I just can't pick up the phone and say. Steven. help! So I panic."

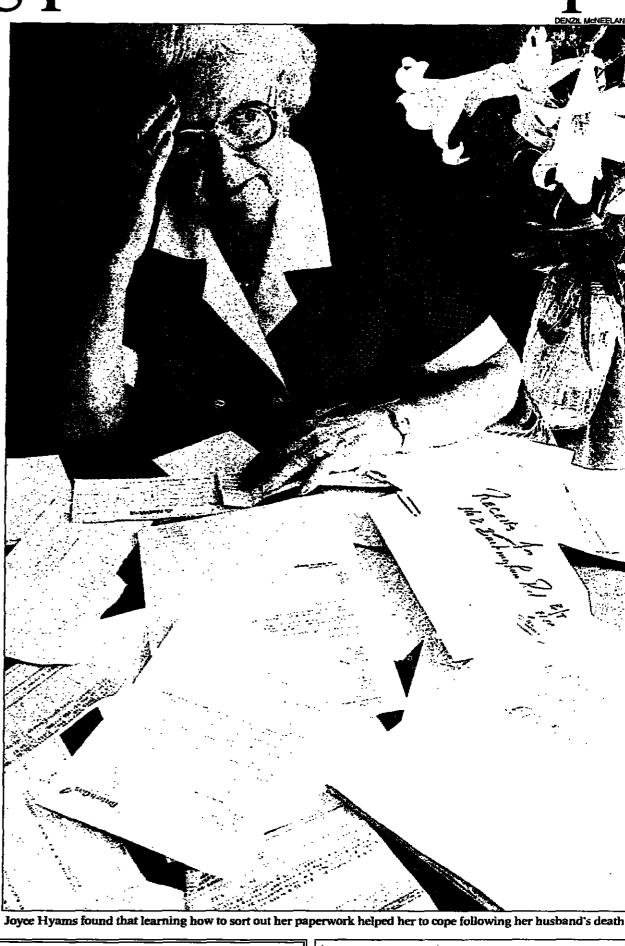
ut gradually she feels she is becoming more in control. "I sanded all the skirting boards in the living room, and to be honest they look awful, but at least I did it." Joyce too feels she's begin-

ning to take on the jobs that before fell to John. The first time I changed a plug I switched it on with a broom handle because I was convinced I was going to blow myself up. But now I'm putting up shelves and doing a bit of varnishing, and I really proud of myself." Ms Hilliard says: "Once you

do start taking over your former partner's responsibilities there is a real sense of achievement, and it all helps to build up your confidence. You can think, My husband would be so proud of me'. Even doing little things like mowing the lawn or changing a plug means you're incorporating what they did as part of your current life, and it can make you feel very close to them.

"Many people become more confident than they were before the death of their partner. Lots of people say to me, 'I'm doing things I never thought I'd do'. The death of someone very close means many changes, but some people emerge stronger and more confident than before." My mother now has a very full, interesting life. She's tak-

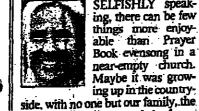
en up activities my father would have had no time for but which she enjoys. She's mastered the art of insurance. and getting the car serviced.
I'm just waiting for her to take up hang gliding.



Ruth Gledhill enjoys the peace of a near-empty church that drew 18th-century Bloomsbury's great and good

AT YOUR SERVICE

An oasis of quiet in the city centre



ing, there can be few things more enjoyable than Prayer Book evensong in a near-empty church. Maybe it was growing up in the country-

organist's daughters and the farmer's wife in the congregation — and dusty prayer black books that urged us still to pray for King George that did the damage, but worship at St George's in Bloomsbury felt strangely like coming home. One difference was the noise.

Central London was eerily quiet on a Sunday, while hymns in the countryside seemed always to be accompanied by the unstoppable sounds of dogs, cows and sheep on neighbouring farms. But strangely, in this parish of thousands, there were even fewer people at church than there used to be in our home thurch, which served a parish of about 35.

As in all empty churches, the three worshippers gravitated towards the back. The organist played exquisite-ly in the galkery of this blissful church, while the church warden sat alone, near the front. A couple of

tourists wandered in, and stayed. halfway through. Thus it was that the two elderly

ladies behind me and I had the undivided attention of the priest, Fr Perry Butler, who is also director of ordinands in the Edmonton area, and religious adviser to London Weekend Television. The theme that links the readings on this second Sunday in Pentecost is a more excellent way to love," he said. The second-best bit was the

hymns. For someone with a loud but sadly out-of-tune voice, this was the perfect place to let go. The ladies at behind suffered uncomplainingly through the Magnificat, the Nunc Dimittis and Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy. But the best bit of all was the

priest who, instead of preaching, read George Herbert's poem, Love. "You must love the alien for you once lived as alien in Egypt," we heard in the first reading, from Deuteronomy. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your mind and all your strength," we heard in the second, from Mark. "Let the greatness of your love be known to us that we may worship with the wonder of joy," we prayed. Before the service, there had been



Lucy Wilmot, violin, and Lydia Clatworthy, piano, at St George's

a recital, with Lucy Wilmot on the violin and Lydia Clatworthy on the piano performing works by Schu-bert, Poulenc and Elgar. For this, the church was nearly full. This was the first of 12 Sunday afternoon recitals at St George's, and was a perfect prelude to evensong. But these people did not stay.

In the morning the church has between 30 and 40 worshippers, when coffee and tea after the service is plentiful, and evensong has been known to go into double figures.
Once, the pews told a different story. In the 18th century, this church served the great and the

good. In 1730, its vestrymen includ-

Eyre, Lord Chief Justice; Sir Hans Sloane, the celebrated naturalist; William Hucks, the royal brewer and five baronets.

Its architecture reflects this. From the statue of King George I atop the unique steeple, based on the design of the mausoleum built in Turkey for King Mausolus himself, to the grand 18th-century south portico and the gilded winged cherubs in the east apse, the church is at once solemn and light.

Many alterations have been made. One of the saddest losses, besides that of the congregation, has been of the lions and unicorns that decorated the base of the steeple, ed the Duke of Montagu; Sir Robert removed a century ago. Efforts to

★ A five-star guide ★

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE: The Rev Dr Perry Butler

ARCHITECTURE: Classical Hawksmoor church consecrated in 1730. ★★★★ SERMON: None

MUSIC: Recital and, during service, the Hompipe from Handel's Water

Music. Joyful. ★★★★ LITURGY: Evensong from 1662 Book of Common Prayer. ★★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Immense soothing and peaceful. *** AFTER-SERVICE CARE: None,

trace them this century have failed. Fr Perry arrived at St George's in November 1995 and, although parttime, is determined to bring it back to life. Services there are renowned for intelligent preaching and a broadly catholic approach within the Anglican tradition.

As I left, I prayed that church bureaucrats concerned with bottoms on pews would not seek out this place and close it down. St George's is living proof that there is a need and purpose for the nearempty church. None can say that God is not there just because there are so few people.

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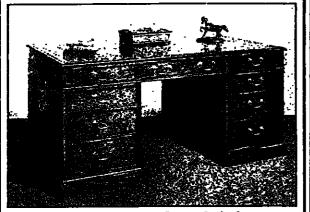


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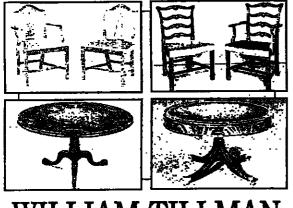




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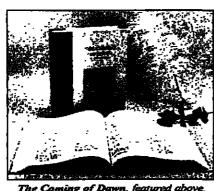
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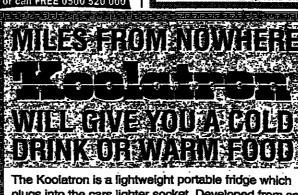
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From reef to mountains, naturally Australia - 16-17

trave

Woodland Oasis takes on Center





Moorish memories of a glorious past

After a gap of 19 years, Jeremy Wayne returned to Morocco to find the atmosphere of medieval mystery still unchanged

ack in 1978, when Blondie topped the album charts with Parallel Lines and students grew pot in yoghurt cartons on their window-sills. I first took the road to Morocco. With two college friends I crossed the straits from Algeriras in southern Spain late one August afternoon. At dusk the Transmediterranea ferry slipped effort-lessly into Tangier harbour and we stepped gingerly on to the Dark Continent, our progress marginally impeded by the cartons of Marlboros and halfdozen pairs of Levis we had been advised to carry in case we got into a scrape.

I had brought a guidebook along too, written by a lady whose name, appropriately, was Jane Holliday, who described the old fishing port as "a gay symphony of colour", a description uncannily apt as we found ourselves accosted a dozen or more times by wanton boys before reaching the harbour gates.

Nineteen years later I returned, without room-mates or rucksacks or American cigarettes, an American wife instead, with a suite of suitcases in her wake and a fondness for good hotels. Would Morocco be the same? We would follow the same route, visit the same sites and, since this is a true story, only the hotels would be changed to protect the spoilt. We sailed from Algerias again. From

the upper deck of the Ibn Battuta only a heart of stone would fail to be moved by the first glimpse of Tangier. Africa's northern outpost, a patchwork of crumbling plaster which tumbles from hilltops down the slopes into Jane Holliday's gay harbour below.

Between 1912 and 1956 Tangier was an international city, and until well into the 1970s poets, pederasts, aristocrats and the dispossessed came here to find each other and, occasionally, themselves. In its heyday it was the most licentious city on the planet, teeming with boy brothels, porno-Bowles, William Burroughs, Allen Ginsberg, Joe Orton - all gravitated here for their art and their pleasure, and Bowles remains here, a winkly-eyed octogenarian living in unseemly squalor in a faceless apartment building opposite the defunct American consulate

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of the second

Eschewing the Pension Marrakech in the medina where I had holed up last time around (great location, Art Deco reception desk, clean-ish sheets and cold running water, a bargain in anyone's book with doubles at £3.50 a night), we used El Minzah as our base instead. A turn-of-thecentury Moorish pile built by Greek tycoon Ion Perdicaris as his townhouse, it later became the Palmarium casino before being converted into a hotel by the Earl of Bute in the 1930s. El Minzah, like Tangieritself, is pure theatre, with its fountained Andalusian courtyard and fezzed flunkies waiting on your every whim; it also boasts the city's safest car park, should you happen to be motorised.

We spent the mornings enjoying Tangier's warming winter sun and the afternoons wandering the alleys of the old town looking for what once had been.

Barbara Hutton's house, Sidi Hosni. now divided ignobly into four apartments, dominates the casbah. Her excesses are well documented in the city 3 over which she reigned as uncrowned queen, her influence so great that in 1958 the mayor of Tangier ordered that all existing arches in the city be widened so that her Rolls-Royces might glide more easily through them.

angier is now the most unfashionable resort in Morocco, which makes it a serious traveller's dream. Since the 1970s, most of its infamous watering-holes, such as the flamenco estaminet La Mar Chica and the populist Paradise, have closed down, but some of the haunts frequented by Hutton, beau monde king David Herbert and later the Beats, still survive.

We drank beer at noon in Dean's Bar, a filthy hole-in-the-wall where the beau monde once went slumming and where nowadays Spanish dock workers crowd the bar, expectant and expectorating, to watch football on satellite television.

In the cafés on the Place de France, the central point of the city, where rich man. poor man, beggar man and thief congregate, we sipped mint tea sans sucre and watched the shadows lengthen. Much later, in the hours after midnight, we knocked back injudicious shots of cheap brandy at the Tangier Inn, a deliciously unwholesome, louche dive sporting Ginsberg's annotated photographs on the walls and adjoining which, in a ground floor room of the Hotel Mourira, Burroughs wrote The Naked Lunch.

It was time to head south, and seven hours' drive via Ouezzane, along roads of miserable repair, brought us parched and frazzled to Fez, Morocco's spiritual heart. Barnaby Rogerson, in his excellent Cadogan Guide to Morocco, calls Fez the most complete, Islamic, medieval city in the world". Founded in the 9th century. the medersas, or universities, of Fez were flourishing when the city of Oxford was

an inhospitable swamp.

I phoned to book a table to dine at the Palais Mnebbi, a 14th-century palace in the medina where Sultan Moulay Halid signed the Treaty of Fez with General Lynutey of France in 1912, thereby establishing the French Protectorate, and



To jaded western tourists, little seems to have changed over the centuries in Marrakesh; but it is a city where much is hidden from the casual visitor and where lives are intensely private

where last year, on a private visit, the Prince of Wales are pigeon b'stilia reclining Moroccan-style on a damask divan. These days, as a restaurant, the Mnebhi serves the best couscous in town, but the palace is difficult to find and its owner, Haj Abdeslam Sentissi, kindly said he would send someone to our hotel to escort us.

That is how we met Bousghiri Azzedine, a multilingual (nine languages, including Aramaic), Shakespearean scholar with an MA in philosophy from the University of Fez, who has written extensively on the Bard in Arabic and is the author, in English, of a widely acclaimed paper on Love's Labour's Lost. Born in Fez, the politics and precarious economics of his native Morocco oblige Azzedine to work

as a tourist guide.

At Bab Boujeloud, a main gate of access to the old town. I remembered every café and the fatuous anecdotes each brought to mind. Fads and fashion simply do not enter the Moorish consciousness - jeans and satellite dishes excepted - and so



MOROCCO FACT FILE

■ The author travelled with British Airways (0345 222111) and Abercrombie & Kent (0171-730 9600).

■ Abercrombie & Kent organises tailor-made holidays to Morocco. An itinerary similar to the one described here costs from £1,090 for 11 nights.

British Airways flies weekly to Tangier from Heathrow and Agadir from Gatwick; twice weekly to Marrakesh from Garwick and daily to Casablanca from Heathrow. World Offers to Tangier start at £229.

■ The rule used to be: winter in the south, summer in the north, although with swimming pools and air-conditioning this is changing. Macrakesh temperatures exceed 100F in July and August: in Tangier expect rain some of the time between November and April Winter temperatures rarely fail

Carry small change for tipping, and tip "a little and often". The average wage in Morocco is less than five dirhams an hour (30p). Tip too much and you will be seen as a fool who does not know the ■ Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-

229 5260) recommends: Cadogan Guide, Morocco (£14.99); A Year in Marrakesh. by Peter Mayne (Eland, 18.99): Fez City of Islam, by Titus Burekhardt (Islamic Texts Society, £14.95; Morocco That Was, by Peter Harris (Eland, £8.99); Tangier, City of the Dream, by lain Finlayson (Flamingo, 17.99).

things have at least the appearance of remaining the same. Certainly the Hotel Cascade seemed so. Rooms are still basic here and the spurty-style plumbing, as if the taps are going to be sick, seems not to have advanced down the years. But the Cascade does have the advantage of a good position, tucked just inside the Boujeloud gate.
At Bab Guissa, by the medina's north-

ernmost point, we stayed at the Palais Jamai, a former vizier's palace which was once the "best" address in the city. Better days it has almost certainly seen, but the view of the medina from the Jamai's rooms and terraces will take your breath away: every traveller should pass this way at least once in a lifetime. At dusk the old city is bathed in a pale

pink light, swallows swoop across the rooftops and muezzins climb high in their koutubias to intone their plaintive call to prayer. Then darkness falls like a velvet shroud and all night long you hear the acrid twang of bells, and crowing cocks, and dogs, and distant drums pounding

ancient, secret messages.

Like a layered fruit cake, like an oily, rich cassoulet, each town, each city of Morocco titillates, seduces, then defies you to leave.

There is never enough time here; at the moment you begin to assimilate the smell and the colour, when your ear grows accustomed to the rhythms of the alleyways and your gait has adapted to respect the donkey's right of way — unless you are very lucky, that is the moment when you have to move on.

And so we came to Marrakesh. The lanterns were being lit in Djemma el Fna, the Square of the Dead, and the braziers stoked, and the boy dancers from the deep south were starting to shake back and forth like holy men on acid, as we sipped tea on a tourist terrace overlooking the sprawling, pulsating parade ground.
"Are you with the German group?" a

short, fat man with an umbrella had asked my father, years before, on this terrace. "No, I'm with the Woolwich," he had replied, always quick on the draw. You cannot mind tour groups in

Marrakesh; you cannot deny other human beings a glimpse of this earthy beauty, this exquisite, bone-dry ante-Atlas air, this lifting up of eyes to the snowcovered mountains beyond. Yet Marrakesh is essentially a private

place, a place of mystery, deep, difficult, unfathomable, with its hugger-mugger gardens like St Laurent's magical Majorelle, the pavilions and orchards of the Agdal, and the deceptively simple symmetry of the Menara.

overty, I know, is a relative term. In the summer of 1978 we considered ourselves poor, and the three of us stayed for a formight in the "hotel", a furnace on the square without basic plumbing, without basic anything. One bed and two wooden palettes, so that every third night, revolving as we did, I got lucky and slept like a sultan, between sheets. But to live as we did, even for two short weeks, around the clock, right there on the Djemma el Fna that was everything, and when I brought that summer to mind, I understood that I. not the city, had changed.

It is true the Marrakesh "experience" is

sanitised, considered from the compound of the famous Mamounia Hotel. But those who feel such overt opulence is misplaced in a city of obvious poverty are perhaps missing the point. Marrakesh is not a poor place. From the sumptuous palaces of the medina, to the ancient mud streets of the mellah, or Jewish quarter, this is a city hung with satins and brocades, painted in colours of rose and indigo and gold; where evenings are heavy with the scent of jasmine and orange blossom and a million stars shine in a cold, black sky.

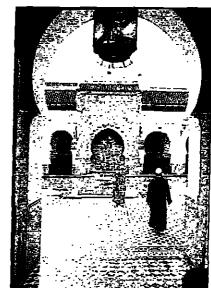
arrakeshis are not poor; like most Moroccans, they are simply broke. And as for the giving of alms, an issue which confronts you constantly in this glorious land, embarrassing awkward Britons, you can do no better than follow the counsel of the Prophet. For Muhammad, when asked, "What shall we give to the poor?", answered: "Give what you can spare ... and if you can spare nothing, then at least speak to them kindly."

Stay at the Mamounia if you can afford it and, if you cannot, speak kindly about it, even if you do not wholly approve.

"With the rich and the mighty, always a little patience," as Scott Fitzgerald wrote in one of his more sober moments.

La Mamounia, while not to everyone's taste, is a hotel of legends. It is vast and very beautiful, with indoor fountains, pools of roses, exotic gardens, a swimming pool which is the height of restrained luxury and a doorman so tall. so dashing in his jewelled turban and Berber cloak, that respectable women and, for all I know, respectable men also hardly know which way to turn.

in Marrakesh, too, the hour-glass soon empties. Three bell-boys loaded our suitcases, for here they do nothing by halves, and Ahmed, the turbanned doorman, flashed us a smile that was pure Hollywood. We eased the car past the guides at the hotel entrance and turned left on to the Avenue Bab Jdid in the direction of Casablanca, and home. We promised ourselves we would come back soon no matter where we might stay palace, pension or palette. In Morocco, the difference is but a state of mind.



Mosque in the ancient city of Fez

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E F Hutton for his wife, the

heiress Majorie Merriweather

Post in the late 1920's.

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Australia: From ancient rainforest and the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef to the duck-billed platypus . . . •



Snorkellers enjoy a marine spectacle off Port Douglas

Ramble in the jungle

he train climbs slowly through the steamy. lush undergrowth, its vintage carriages snaking through cuttings. over waterfalls and around precipitous gorges. A century ago the old railway to Kuranda was the only way for tin miners and gold prospec-tors on the high plateau to reach the Queensland coast thousands of feet below. Now the 20-mile line, one of the most expensive and accidentprone ever built, is a spectacuar route through the once impenetrable rainforest, a glimpse back to the days when swamps, jungles, disease and poisonous snakes and insects made Australia's tropical cone one of the world's most inhos-

Hauled by a diesel, the 12carriage train takes 90 minutes to reach the top of the mountain range. In the old days a steam engine could pull only four carriages and took almost six hours to negotiate the curved trellis bridges, 15 nunnels and 98 sharn bends.

At the height of its construction, more than 1,000 men were at work on the mountain, living on campsite clearings already overgrown with creepers and dense vegetation. Sometimes it rained for 20 days on end, and mosquitoes, snakes, landslides and caveins took their toll.

It still rains torrentially. Northern Queensland receives more precipitation than anywhere else in the country, and rivers course down the slopes into the sea where Captain Cook, his crew sick and despairing, sailed slowly up the

coastline looking for safe harbour to put in for repairs after Endeavour had been holed by Great Barrier Reef. Cook named the mountains and features according to his mood Mount Sorrow, Cape Tribulation. Now the coastline is Australia's top tourist draw and the rainforest draws thousands to marvel at the dense gloom of its vegetation.

The Barrier Reef is a national marine park visited by huge catamaran cruisers that moor above the underwater kingdom to allow divers and snorkellers to view millions of rainbow-coloured fish and corals. The huge crocodiles that bask immobile on the muddy estuary banks are photographed by hundreds of tourists gliding down the rivers in search of Australia's dangerous wildlife.

Cairns is the centre of tourism in the region — a fast-growing town whose centre is now taken over by hotels, restaurants, shops, discos and all the hectic partying of the thousands who arrive, especially from Japan.

here the giant aluminium catamarans set out each morning, gliding across the sea with their powerful stern jets emitting plumes of spray. One company, Quicksilver, has moored its own illoating platform above the reef, where instructors teach novices to dive or snorkel and where glass-sided boats meander above the steep banks of coral.

The Great Barrier Reef stretches some 1,500 miles along the coast, encompassing



2,900 individual reefs and 618 continental islands. Protected by Unesco's World Heritage List. it is home to 1,500 species of fish, 242 different types of birds, 22 different whales and 400 species of coral.

No snorkeller can see all that, but even in two hours of exploring you can look at an

astonishing range of spark-ling, translucent fish, as well as huge marine turtles, stingrays and even the occasional shark, all gliding silently among the corals that branch like antiers or spread out like huge underwater mushrooms. No one is allowed to drop anything overboard, remove any corals or disturb the fish. Both the Federal and Queensland governments have drawn up a protection plan to ensure that the only disturbances come from the cyclones that

churn up the seas. The land expeditions into the rainforest also set off from Cairns. Further up the coast is Port Douglas, a beautiful sheltered anchorage that has become an upmarket tourist haven, recently boasting Chancellor Helmut Kohl and President Bill Clinton among

Turther inland is the real rainforest — the Daintree National Park, a genetic mar-vel, a sanctuary for thousands of species isolated from the world when Australia separated from Asia. Boardwalks have been built through the hardwoods and palms, the mangrove swamps and the rattans. Guides point out some species that date back to prehistoric times, others with toxic fruits, creepers with razor-sharp climbing hooks and those that shed huge nuts that only the giant birds of the forest can eat.

The rainforest has a dangerous fascination. P&O has established an exclusive resort in the jungle, but those looking out from the elegant shaded balconies have difficulty realising that this is not a film backdrop but a home to

FACT FILE

■ British Airways Holidays (01293 723191) has a 14-night package to include flights, accommodation, transfers, taxes, the Quicksilver cruise and Kuranda from £1,698 per person.

Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: The Tree of Man. by Patrick White (Vintage, E5.99; The Songlines, by Bruce Chatwin (Picador, E5.99); Queensland (Lonely Planet, E11.95); Islands of Australia's Great Barrier Reef (Lonely Planet, E8.95).

■ The author travelled to Cairns with the Australian Tourist Commission (ATC) and British Airways. BA (0345 22211) has return flights to Cairns from £720.

■ The Quicksilver cruise costs £69 per adult and the Kuranda Experience £64 fincluding Sky Rail) from Cairns.

For more information contact the ATC (0990 561434).

SOUTH AUSTRALÎA

snakes, dangerous feral pigs, cane toads that are poisonous and innumerable insects.

A different view of the rainforest is now possible — from above. After years of environmental argument. Skyrail built a five-mile cableway from Kuranda down the mountain to a point near

who have battled to reach the The rainforest was once

inhabited by Aborigines. They now live in towns or on Aboriginal land, But they have not lost the skills of jungle culture and survival, and in Kuranda a troupe of Aborigi nes performs an authentic 30-minute routine depicting animals, hunting and food gathering. The Pamagirri Dancers, their bodies painted in animal decoration, may be only a whisper from an ancient civilisation. But they well convey the excitement, the

Cairns. Opened in 1995, it is

the world's longest gondola cableway, and gives an un-precedented view of the

rainforest canopy - the

palms, creepers and creatures

MICHAEL BINYON

danger and the rituals of a

country with a history and

wild geography that go back

A platypus on the bill

woman wearing a yellow T-shirt and pink shorts and breaking all the rules. We have been told to be patient, quiet and dressed discreetly so as not to alarm the platypus which swim and feed in Broken River in the rainforest at Eungella Nat-

ional: Park in Queensland. Fortunately the platypus we have spotted ignores its audience of five and the screeching cacophony of the cockatoos dusk chorus. It floats centrestage in the gentle current as though rostered for the evening performance to display its duck-like bill and glossy waterproof for. Then it swims a strange aquatic waddle us-ing its webbed front feet before diving steeply. We follow its trail of bub-

bles as it disappears in the brown water to sift the river bed for lava, grubs and small shrimps. The bubbles stop and we scan the river trying to see where it surfaces.

"There," cries an onlooker at least a minute later, pointing to a small log.

There is indeed a platypus alongside it - but is it the

same one? . Then someone spots what is probably our star floating further upstream taking a breath and chewing its prey

before diving again.
The second platypus swims closer and disappears into its burrow to our left. In just over an hour there are six sightings of these enchanting egg-lay-

ing mammals whose origins

are still a mystery. When the

first platypus skin arrived in Britain almost 200 years ago, scientists thought it was a

According to Steve Pearson, a local naturalist, Eungella is an excellent place to watch platypus in the wild.

10 steak for

They inhabit most rivers on the east coast but they are such shy creatures people rarely see them. Here they have become accustomed to being watched but I wouldn't recommend bringing the kids to watch them during the July 🗣 and August mating season," he says with a grin.

Honestly, they behave like animals."

JOHN McLEOD

• The best viewing times to see the atypus are at dawn or dusk. Eungelia National Park is approximately 60 miles North West of Mackay, Queensland (0061 795 84552).



Duck-billed platypus

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Tassie's call of the wild

n the afternoon be-fore I sailed my friends in Melbourne insisted on checking the shipping forecast and dispatching me to a chemist for extra strength stomach cement "Cross the Bass Strait?" the

chemist asked as he wrapped up this bottle of 100-proof gut

How did you know that?" I One of the roughest seas in the world, the Bass Strait.

And, down here, this is the stuff everyone uses to get them through the voyage. Ever been to Tasmania before? I shook my head∴ Before you get off the ship

tomorrow, don't forget to set your clock back 25 years," he I grabbed my bottle and headed for the Port of

Melbourne. It was not the first time I had heard a lame joke about Tassie: that sparsely populat-ed chunk of land, marconed in permanent geographic exile due south of the Australian mainland. One Sydney friend

had noted that it was "very Kiwi" (a common Australian synonym meaning: backward, humourless, smugly provincial), and some of my temperate-minded acquaintances had informed me that Tasmania was, quite simply, paradise

Certainly, the ship that made the 14-hour crossing from Melbourne, The Spirit of Tasmania, was anything but paradise. Rather it seemed to consider itself a sort of Butlin's Sur-la-Mer - a floating holiday camp, replete with poker machines, roast dinners, organised fun: The standard sartorial attire among the passengers was the mintgreen shell suit, and the ship's decor seemed to hark back to an era when Abba and Bjorn Borg kept us entertained. Maybe I really should have set my watch back 25 years. But, miraculously, the Bass Strait that night was as motionless as plate glass and my bottle of stomach cement sat unopened as we steamed our way south.

We docked in a small port town called Devenport. It was streets were empty, the townscape was Nowheresville with right ennui. And I found ac, Travelling from Longford myself thinking: You travel to across the island's mid-sective bottom of the world, and tion, I traded Avon and Somwhat's the pay-off? You land in the Irish Midlands".

it took about ten minutes to decide that Devonport and I were going to part company, so I pointed my car in the direction of Longford, because it had to be an improvement on the Longford that is located in the Irish Midlands (and which, if my memory serves me well, is home to one of the

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Wagnerian undertones: Cradle Mountain, plus the immense glacial lake, forms part of a vast national park about two hours' drive from Hobart

largest pet food factories in the Irish Republic). As it turned out, this Long-

ford was a dazzling surprise. Verdant, roaming fields, neatly parcelled by formal hedges. Old country piles, redolent of Tasmania's colonial beginnings. An airy, gossamer tone to the light lent this stately landscape (best described as Gainsborough Goes Antipo-dean) a certain mythic, ethere-

s I was to discover during the next few days, Tasmanian light is as moody and olatile as a habitual insomnierset for a landscape right out of the African veld. Grassy parklands gave way to a terrain of gum trees and hard rocky soil that was the colour of burnt custard. The sun was suddenly merciless, incandescent — a potent hint of the arid bush in an island usually noted for its green and pleas-

ant landscape. Then this harsh desert sun suddenly transformed itself into a dark, murky Nordic gloom once I was within the urban boundaries of Hobart, the state capital. This was something of a

revelation — a hummocky city of steep hills and venerable wood-framed houses that (both in temperament and visual character) seemed more Scandinavian than Antipodean. Wandering through the back streets of its port, loitering without much intent in its excessively pretty parklands. exploring its vertiginous inner suburbs, I became quickly beguiled by its alluting melancholia - the long shadows and malt whisky tint that bathed the city at dusk; a sense that this was a serious, cultured place where people spent the evening reading books, listening to the baroque top ten (Hobart boasts a first-rate chamber orchestra), and

Indeed, in Hobart you really felt as if you had reached the metropolitan end of the line the last outpost of late 20thcentury life before that frozen

void called Antarctica (the

FACT FILE

■ The author travelled to Tasmania with Qantas (0345 747767). Daily flights begin at £875 via Melbourne.

The Spirit of Tasmania sails from Melhourne to Devonport three days a week.

Accommodation: In Longford, Woolmers (00 613 6391 1251) is an elegant country house with comfortable stone cottages. In Hobart, the Islington Elegant Private Hotel (00 613 6223 3900) is a Georgian house with splendid rooms at reasonable rates.

When to go: Winter in Tasmania during June-September is, by Australian standards, cold and very wet.

Reading The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends The Potato Factory, by Bryce Courtenay (Mandarin, £6.99): The Fatal Shore, by Robert Hughes (Harvill, £7.99): Tasmania (Lonely Planet, £8.99).

main Hobart newspaper carries a daily Antarctic weather forecast, for all the locals who want to keep in touch with climatic conditions on the Ronne Ice Shelf).

Given its "last stop" status, it was not surprising to discover that Hobert (in fact, all of Tasmania) was peopled by a quirky supporting cast of characters: Eastern European exiles turned cartoonists. There are macro-neurotic vegans who were engaged in "whole

earth agrarian experiments"; assorted refugees from big city life (ad men turned bush pilots) and, more typically, just a lot of extremely smart folk who had come to realise that this island was one of the last great Edenic wildernesses on earth and a unique bolt hole at the bottom of the world.

When I spent a day hiking around Cradle Mountain (a vast national park which, like everything else in Tassie, is about two hours' drive from

Hobart). I began to understand the visual uniqueness of this island. The scenic background was

Wagnerian: craggy mountains, an immense glacial lake, a forbidding sky of black, bellicose clouds.

almost expected to see some Teutonic god (and his attendant blonde Rhine maiden) rise up from this crystalline lake. break into song and then stop to look around at their surroundings and wonder: "Did we get off at the wrong exit on the way to Valhalla?"

Maybe not -- because, as I tramped my way around this massive lake (a radiant shaft of light occasionally escaping from behind the inky Götter dammerung sky), the thought struck me that Tasmania still has that raw, primitive call of the wild. And it serves to remind us jaded urbanites that there are places still left on the planet which have only been marginally sullied by

DOUGLAS KENNEDY

Roo steak for me – and make it rare

Two weeks in Australia are enough to make you seriously consider the options for emigrating to the southern hemisphere. Even without the added incentive of travelling there during its official Year of Good Living, the country offers one of the most exhilarating holidays.

Playing crieket on a pitch created in the middle of a winery in the Macedon Ranges, 30 miles due north of Melbourne, may not be on everyone's itinerary, but it is an example of what can be arranged for sporting enthusiasts.

The Cope-Williams winery at

Romsey on the northern slopes of Mount Macedon which specialises in sparkling wines - as well as quince jam, Cherry plum sauce, crab apple jelly with rosemary, zucchini (courgette) pickles and rosehip jelly — is set in an environment of rolling hills where the cricket oval next to the deep red soil of the vineyards seems a perfect addition.

Eating and drinking well in Australia is unavoidable. After cricket at Cope-Williams, kangaroo steaks at the Mountain Inn in Mount Macedon (not far from the famous Hanging Rock where the film Picnic

at Hanging Rock was made) are obligatory for any tourist in the area who wants to take advantage of native Australian cuisine or "bush tucker". Eve, the hostess, is the sort of extrovert who could persuade a vegetarian to eat kangaroo. Cooked rare, the meat is lean, soft and tender. Native tucker has taken off in Australia. It has become a multimillion-dollar industry. Andrew

Fielke, chef at the Red Ochre Grill in Adelaide, has pioneered the use of Australia's native foods after investigating Aboriginal cooking methods, using wild fruits, such as quandong. and indigenous herbs and spices. Mr Fielke, who plans to open a restaurant in London, offers a menu FACT FILE

The author travelled with the Australian Tourist Commission

Austravel (0171-734 7755) has flights on Britannia Airways from Gatwick from £599 in February/March/April to Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne Domestic flights with Ansett bookable from £30 per sector.

stayed at the Centra hotel in Melbourne bookable through Austravel from £48 per person, and the Hindley Parkroyal in Adelaide, available through Utell (0990 300200) from £99 per double.

Bay bogs with river mint chilli sauce, and chargrilled kangaroo fillet steak. Koalas, of course, are not on the that includes emu pâté, possum rillettes, split roast yabbies, Moreton menu. They appear to be far too cuddly . . . and protected.

Mr Fielke's restaurant in Adelaide is located in the middle of a mile long strip of shops, restaurants and clubs, where in the evenings the twentysomethings cruise up and down in polished convertibles at about 5mph, begging to be noticed by all — or at least some — of the diners sitting at crowded tables on the

delaide is also the home of the famous Adelaide Oval. renowned as the world's prettiest cricket ground and scene of the most dramatic match of the notorious Bodyline series

Although the Adelaide Oval. like the even grander Melbourne cricket ground, also plays host these days to Australian Rules football matches and pop concerts as part of a drive for commercial success, it remains a place that still has echoes of legend-

ary Test players. It also has a historic and unique scoreboard which relies on positively Heath Robinson technology - which is all explained in minute detail by Frank, its chief practitioner for the past 14 years. Guided tours can be arranged.

For a holiday as short as two weeks, the visits have to be limited. It is impossible to do justice to states such as Queensland, if you want to spend enough time in Victoria and South Australia. However, it is difficult to imagine not making the effort to fly on to New South Wales to

visit Sydney. Australia is a breathtaking country and of its cities, Sydney is the most exciting for the first-time visitor. Viewed from my hotel bedroom window, the Opera House appeared to change shape and colour as the day wore on and there is certainly no better place to contemplate the venue for the next meal than the Botanical Gardens, situated behind Australia's most famous landmark.

MICHAEL EVANS

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WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 23

(a) In Hong Kong, a car used illegally as a taxi. From the Cantonese, literally, "white licence". "Triad gangs are involved in the operation of extortion rackets with minibuses, pak pais and goods vehicles illegally used for passengers in rural areas."

PIPERADE

(c) A dish originating in the Basque country, consisting of eggs, tomatoes, and peppers, and resembling an omelette. E. H. Clements. Note of Enchantment: "Alister. . . ordered a piperade and are it unhurriedly with a hunk of bread."

RACKENSAK (b) A native of Arkansas. Probably an altered form of Arkansan. "Artillerists and dragoons, suckers and rackensacks, were all mixed up in confusion."

(c) A spiny shrub, Fouquiera splendens, of the family Fouquieraceae, native to the south-western United States and Mexico and bearing narrow, inconspicuous leaves and panicles of red flowers. "It was not uncommon for visitors to the region to suffer painful and humiliating injuries to their posterior having mistakenly sat down on the mighty Les Cross Channel Bargains of '97

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Eastern Europe: Medieval marvels and yellow liqueur in Prague, Art Nouveau and expectation in Latvia

Taverns, turrets and people's opera

t was when I discovered that the Czech word for "yes" is "ano" that I accepted without demur that the language, at least, must remain a closed book. Fortunately this does not matter, as most people in the fabulous city of Prague seem to speak English of a sort: that is. Hollywood American.

The drive into the capital of the Czech Republic is curiousreminiscent of a London suburb - right up until the moment one crosses a fine old bridge surmounted by custard-coloured columns and rattles over cobbles Prague proper.

The sight of ancient clusters of deep pastel buildings, bristling with onion domes, minarets and Disnev-like castle turrets, some sparkling gold. others glinting like silvery coal, stops the heart.

emerged from the taxi at the Hotel Pariz — an Art Nouveau masterpiece — grateful and sickish, largely due to the joiting on the rounded cobbles that pave the city. The first thing you notice

while wandering the fine. main streets and squares (and ferreting down the alleys) is the buzz. Even on a weekday afternoon, the city is alive with people - mostly young, clearly local but as happy as tourists. They, too, seem to take pleasure in the startling and romantic architecture. They, too, pack the pavement cafés and bars. Western decadence sits well

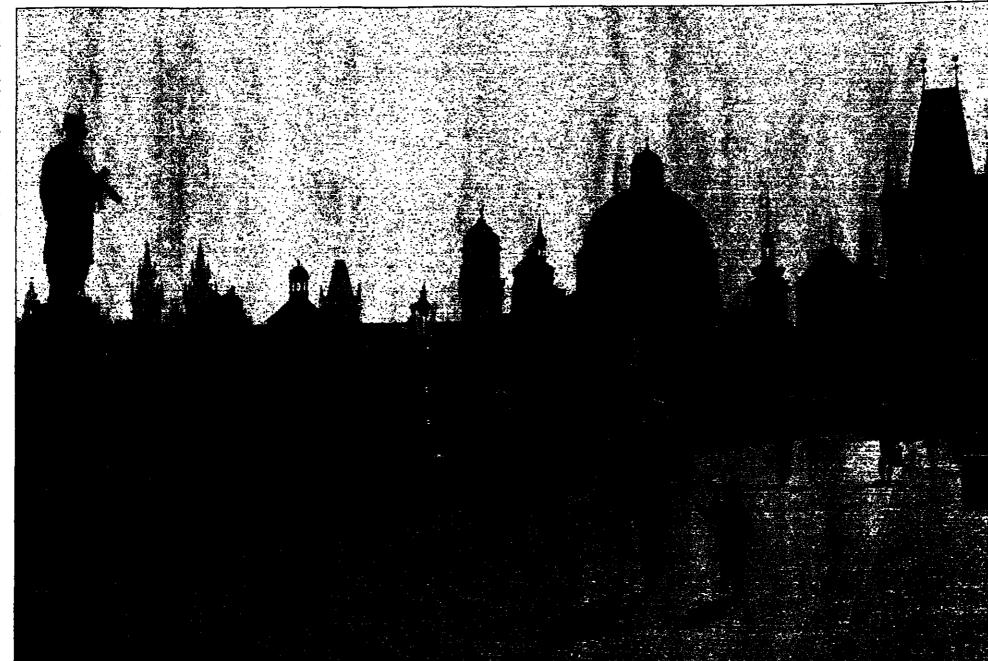
among Eastern European splendour. People point out vith pride the capitalist banks. the giant Tesco and the site of the coming Marks & Spencer. However, the map in the city's phone book highlights only the churches and the four

branches of McDonald's. The good feeling extends into the night — bars, discos and clubs stay open far later than in, say, Florence, and a Budvar Budweiser beer (the local pride and joy) should set you back no more than 50p. Things are generally fairly cheap - and that includes the whores. You meet these if you cross the vast and famous Wenceslas Square (which is not a square, just a long and broad street)

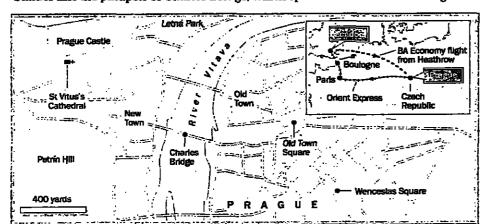
ne must defend not so much one's honour as one's wallet nicknocketing is ife, but apparently most other types of crime are virtually unknown. It is quite safe to walk through most of the city at any time.

It is easy to find your way around and the skyline, together with a decent guidebook, soon make one aware of all the essential visits, such as Charles Bridge — a grand 14th-century affair covered with statues as well as mummers, minstrels and dancers. Old Town Square is another. as is the fantastic cathedral of St Vitus (the city's most prominent landmark, also 14th century) — and you must go to the opera. There are superb productions and ridiculously cheap tickets.

After the exertion of all this sightseeing, what you will want is food. And drink: Bechoroova, almost inevitably a yellow, herby and potent liqueur that starts and ends the meal. The "champagne" is sweetish Bohemia Sekt. If you do not want beer, a decent red



Statues line the parapets of Charles Bridge, which spans the Vltava to link Prague's "old" and "new" towns. Both are in fact ancient quarters, their architectural gems remarkably preserved down the ages



wine is Svatovavrinecke (not easy to say after a couple of bottles - or indeed, before). The clergy has been drinking it since 1264; it is actually an altar wine, but it seems to be everywhere. Food is good and hearty: goose, venison, duck, pork - and something called "three sorts of dumpling" which translates as three sorts

Puddings are rich: pastry, cream. cherries. cream. plums, cream, a slug of herby liqueur and maybe just a bowl of cream to finish off with. You will not starve in Prague.

One is reluctant to leave this glorious, gutsy and beautiful city, but the one thing that lured me away with ease was the prospect of the journey home on the Venice Simplon Orient-Express.

I had always wanted to go on this train and it did not

disappoint. Contrary to all the advertisements, you do not have to sport shingles, cloches and long cigarette holders, nor moustaches and monocles, but they certainly do not discourage it. The lavish brochure advises that it is impossible to overdress, and one or two dozen Americans had taken it at its word.

> The corridor throughout this gorgeously rich and stylish train is as narrow as you might expect. If you find yourself behind a lady in a frou-frou frock, you could well find progress slow. The bar is lavish yet discreet (how did they squeeze in the grand piano?) but pride of place goes to the pair of dining cars. superb and glossy in veneers, Lalique crystal panels and pleated pink silk-shaded

lamps (for sale at £350 a pot).
The food is remarkably good and so, too, is the service. It is important to enter into the spirit of this delightful 24-hour

And so to bed in my luxury Havana humidor-like cabin as the bogies beneath rhythmically strum. We fly through the night, pausing next morning in Paris to take on fabulous provisions and by Boulogne (where you transfer via the Sea Cat to the equally roomy and elegant Pullman to

FACT FILE

The author travelled with City Escapades in conjuction with Orient Express and Cedok. City Escapades (0171-563 8959) offers many permutations of trip to

Prague. Prices start at £292 for flights and three nights B&B. A three-night package including outbound flights and return Orient Express to London starts at £1,345. Orient Express (0171-805 package from £1.350; trips incorporating Vienna or Venice also available. Accommodation: Hotel Pariz (00 4202 24 222151) has double rooms from EI60. For more information Czech Republic Tourist Authority (0171-291 9920). Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: Magic Prague, by Angelo Maria Ripellino (Picador, £9.99).

London Victoria) you feel quite comfortable with the idea of living on the train for ever. One gentleman," says the chief steward, "comes on every trip. He says he loves to live on the Orient Express, and hopes to die on it too - preferably in

JOSEPH CONNOLLY

An enduring Baltic beauty

Latvia (population Tor a country as small as 2,600,000), Riga might seem an extravagantly large capital with its 900,000 inhabitants. Yet this was a great city state and the queen of the eastern Baltic long before St Petersburg was a twinkle in anyone's eye. Founded by the later ioined the Hanseatic League, a powerful trading confederation which stretched along the Baltic littoral and into the North Sea as far west as Bruges. The league shaped northern European trade for the next 300 years until the transatlantic navigators discovered the New World.

Like many Eastern European cities after communist rule, Riga gives the feeling of a place waiting for something to happen. This has something to do with its low levels of traffic and almost inordinate sense of spaciousness. The city suffered terrible destruction during the Second World War - from the Germans in 1941 and the Russians in 1944. Trapped between powerful and preda-tory neighbours, Latvians fre-quently found themselves fighting on opposite sides. father against son, brother

against brother. The city's buildings have occasional Stalinist echoes, but the view from the top of St Peter's Church reveals a panorama of tiled roofs, spires and onion domes. St Peter's was largely destroyed by artillery bombardment, yet its warm red brick Gothic vaulting has been rebuilt and its spire restored to make it one of the finest Baltic churches.

Riga is a city where gems of architecture seem to spring out from the most unexpected places. The Art Nouveau quarter, with its Jugendstil buildings, many of which are the



The Daugava River flows past Riga's domes and spires

work of Michael Eisenstein (father of the Soviet filmmaker Sergei) is perhaps without peer in Europe. When fully restored its streets will be one of the glories of Baltic urban

Away from its cities, Latvia is a land of forests and fertile plains which seem to run straight into the tideless Baltic. There are no vast distances to be travelled in this microcosm of a country. Only 50km to the south of Riga is the Rundale Palace, built in the 18th century as the summer residence of the Dukes of Courland. The funds for this imposing Baltic Versailles were extorted from

the Russian empress Anna

Ivanovna by a crafty gigolo

called Ernst Johann Biron. who was to become Duke of

Courland in 1737. The besotted tsarina placed at Biron's disposal her favourite architect. Rastrelli. The death of his mistress brought an end to Biron's promising career, but he outlived this setback. Rundale was com-

pleted in 1768; its handsome exterior and lofty salons make it one of the Baroque gems of northern Europe.

FACT FILE

The author travelled with

Gunnei Travei Service (01473 828855). From

hotel will cost from £347

nights B&B from E300.

Riga Airlines (01293

Reading: The Travel

Bookshop (0171-229 5260)

recommends: Professor Mariens' Departure, by

Jaan Kross (Harvill, £8.99):

Gatwick from £245.

Bradt Guide Latvia (E10.95).

based on two sharing

Springtime is an especially attractive season to visit Lat via. In the Zemgale, the wetlands in the south of the country, the storks are settling into trees and on to rooftops after their long journey from Africa, and the farmers can breathe again at this renewed promise of continuing fertility. And on the coast it is a strange sensation to walk in shirtsleeves down a beach of silver sand to a silent sea, still frozen out to the horizon.

PETER DAVIES





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عِلَدًا من الأصل

Britain: Rank has embraced the holiday village idea, but will it be able to surpass its rival, Center Parcs?

What's the story? Oasis glory

allowed so

you cycle

everywhere

- young

children

adore the

freedom'

their own way for ten years in Britain. Wellheeled families have been arriving in droves at Sherwood Forest or Elveden, Suffolk, or Longleat, Wilishire and having a terrific time, telling their friends not to be put off by the tacky name because it is perfectly tasteful. although not cheap ... oh, and when is half-term so we can book again? But now the woodland world of chalets and heated swimming domes has a competitor.

Not far from the Lake District a new "holiday village" called Oasis has arrived, adopting the sound business strategy that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery and an almost guaranteed route to success. Despite this being the first attempt by Rank in this field (compared with the vast experience

here and abroad of Center Parcs, a Dutch company), it looks as if it

will flourish. First, however, the voice of the environmentally minded holidaymaker: must we chop down huge swaths of forest to build these places? Yes, if you want a holiday village, you make a big hole in a wood. This kind of enterprise would not work in open fields, or on the edge of towns. The whole appeal lies in escaping from the week-

crafted mix of man-made pleasures and secluded natural beauty. In the case of Oasis, carved out of Whinfell Forest, Cumbria - a commercial conifer plantation grown in the 19th century on the

ly cycle of work to a carefully

Lowther Estate — the objections cannot be as strong as if ancient wood had been felled. No cars are allowed, so you cycle everywhere on roads, from your

lodge (chalet-like, self-catering, very comfortable) to your chosen activity (there are many) and around the 400-acre site. Young children, unaccustomed to such read a book, he is on the wrong holiday. He could find plenty of isolated spots if he really wanted, though he would do better to head off into the wood nearest to home.

skittering appearance on our first morning a few yards from the lodge, the punctilious environmental claims of the owners began to have substance. During construction nothing was removed from the site but was "redistributed".

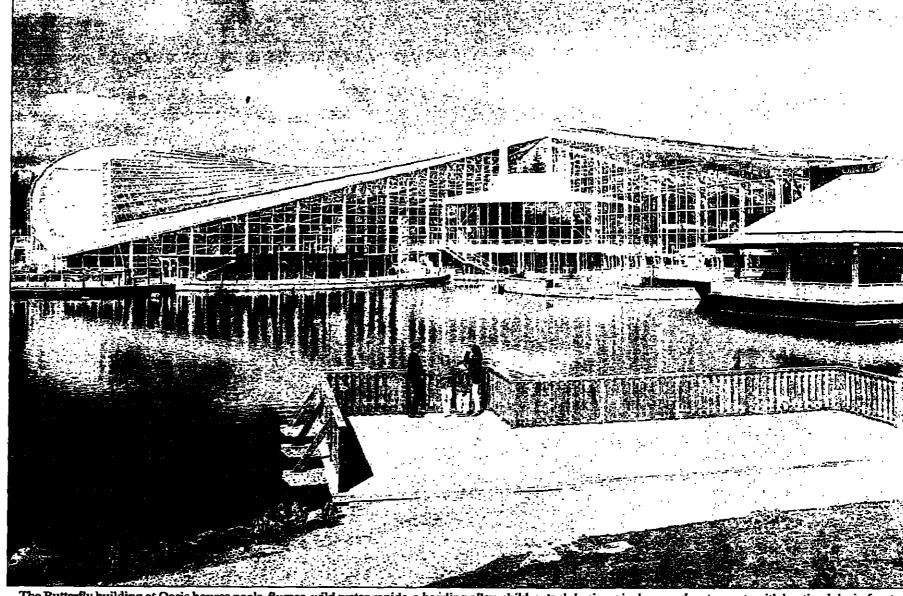
Trees were removed with root balls intact and transported to suitable sites, rare plants protected, badger setts avoided and gates set into the boundary sence for them. Red squirrel feeders have actually increased numbers, they claim. Rabbits are everywhere - even pine martens, apparently, who are

known to eat red squirrel tartare. One afternoon a cheerful forest ranger, at ease with seven or seventy-year-olds, took a small group of us on a "discovery" walk out of the forest and beyond. For 15

quiet minutes a buzzard's nest high in a No cars are Scots pine showed little sign of activity. Then a red squirrel scampered up the trunk and suddealy, through the binoculars, a wing flapped and a snowy white and grey head appeared with a disdainful stare. A pheasant rustled through the bracken below. The squirrel, having located a feeder. settled down to an early supper. We strolled back for ours.

If you do not bring food to cook in your lodge, but rely on the wide range of restaurants on site, it will become an expensive stay. We tried several places - a pub (part of the Tom Cobleigh chain, gimmicky, intrusive music, standard pub fare, but a parents' dream of a play area); Italian (good); Indian (swish, food fine but pricy, service charming but chaotic); and French (swisher still, pleasant, almost empty).

With only two days to explore, we headed rashly for the water on our first morning. Kayaking and sailing sounded like a bracing start to day. I was buffeted relentlessly by the boom of my topper in an Dad is here to find a quiet corner to humiliated and exhibarated in equal measure. The artificial lake, overlooked by the dramatic outline of the Butterfly building, is just large enough for a handful of sailors, but looked too small for a



The Butterfly building at Oasis houses pools, flumes, wild water rapids, a bowling alley, children's club, cinema, shops and restaurants with boating lake in fron

combination of canoeists. windsurfers, sailors, banana boat riders and pedalos.

The airy, attractive Butterfly building is the focal point of Oasis, and houses the World of Water tpools, flumes, wild water rapids a big favourite), the bowling alley. the children's club, a cinema, shops and restaurants.

The other main building, supposed to be the biggest wooden building in Europe, is the Country Club. This is the sports complex with the Sanctuary spa attached.

Apart from the usual offerings such as short tennis, squash, hadminton, snooker and aerobics, you can play ricochet, a racket game similar to squash, but in a smaller court where the ball can bounce off the ceiling and the scoring is done electronically. There are only five courts in Britain, but more than 200 on the Germany. This game is less intimidating than squash - for a start. the ball does not need warming up - and deserves to catch on.

The Sanctuary health spa looks superb. Two of my party underwent Rasul treatment, which has something to do with three colours of mud, large turquoise ceramic chairs, herbal steam, unexpected showers and Arabic ingenuity. The dry flotation tank, which involves lying wrapped in a rubber sheet on a bed of warm water with the lights dimmed, was immensely relaxing. These treatments are pricey, but the quality makes them worth it if you

asis prides itself on several innovations that are supposed to be superior to Center Parcs - such as prebooking of activities before you arrive, use of smart cards for payment and a customs-style check-in. During our stay the Freedom cards were only working sporadically, but are a good idea. They are aimed at children to make them aware of how much they are

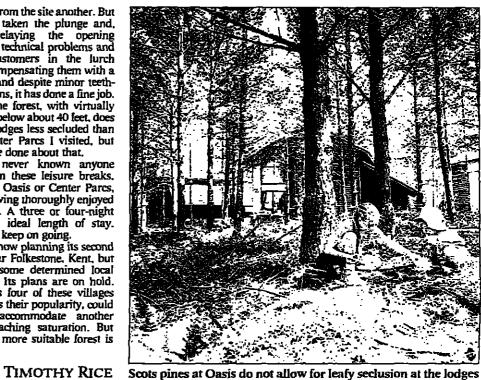
like that kind of thing.

Before Rank moved in, Center Parcs viewed Whinfell Forest as a potential site, but rejected it. Rain and snow in winter may have been one factor: the competing attraction of the nearby Lakes drawing visitors away from the site another. But Rank has taken the plunge and, despite delaying the opening because of technical problems and leaving customers in the lurch (though compensating them with a free visit) and despite minor teeth-

ing problems, it has done a fine job. Scots pine forest, with virtually no foliage below about 40 feet, does leave the lodges less secluded than at the Center Parcs I visited, but little can be done about that.

I have never known anyone return from these leisure breaks. whether at Oasis or Center Parcs, without having thoroughly enjoyed themselves. A three or four-night stay is an ideal length of stay. People will keep on going.

Oasis is now planning its second village, near Folkestone. Kent, but have met some determined local opposition. Its plans are on hold. Britain has four of these villages is their po probably accommodate another without reaching saturation. But how much more suitable forest is



The merry menu of Sherwood

hedgehog scurrying around our patio at 10pm, the expression on two-year-old Jack's face as six ducklings waddled confi-dently towards him from the lake and Tom, nine, sighing contentedly, saying "I wish we could live here, Mum": these are some memorable moments from our visit to the Center Parcs holiday village in Sherwood Forest, Notting-

Not being a sporty type, it was against my better judg-ment that I allowed myself to be persuaded to visit Center Parcs, and I can honestly say that in 11 years of married life it is one of the few times my husband has been proved

The Sherwood Forest village was the first of Center Parcs' three sites in England and celebrates its tenth anniversary this year. I had heard about the Subtropical Swimming Paradise and the extensive sporting and leisure facilities but I had not fully appreciated the commitment to the environment until I stood in our villa, gazing through our French windows into a secluded woodland glade. The site has been planned so that, although the villas are grouped in small blocks of



Riding through woodland is just one of the many pastimes available at Center Parcs

three or four together, each has its own unrestricted view.
This careful planning is evident throughout. The vil-lage square, with its shops and restaurants, has a bustling atmosphere, the country club is surrounded by more open

countryside where guests play

tennis, ride or practise their golf and the lakeside is tranquil. Because the site covers 400 acres and there are so many things to do, nowhere ever felt crowded.

The Subtropical Swimming Paradise is just that - palm trees, tropical foliage, breath-

taking waterchutes, a Miróinspired toddler's paddling pool, even hot whirlpools the four of us spent three happy hours there.

Banning cars was an inspired decision. Even people like me, who have not ridden a bike for more than 15 years.

are happy to wobble about, secure in the knowledge that I would not be crushed under the wheels of a passing juggernaut. The exhibaration of freewheeling past my husband and sons more than makes up for my slight mishap with a bridge further along.

nfortunately, I could not visit the new beauty therapy centre because we had to spend Sunday afternoon travelling into Worksop, 30 minutes' taxi drive away (we had travelled up by train), to the nearest doctor's surgery. Jack was suddenly unwell, so we took him to the medical centre at Center Parcs to be told that there was no doctor on call at the site — an omission I found staggering.
We could not wait until the

next day as Jack had developed tonsillitis. Although the staff in reception were helpful the expensive round trip, plus a mile's walk to a pharmacy and back, blighted an otherwise promising day.
But what with the pony

rides, adventure golf, tenpin bowling, children's disco, cycling and nature watching. overall it was a great success.

ANN HARRISON



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OASIS FACT FILE

■ Oasis Lakeland Forest Village, near Penrith, Cumbria (booking: 0990 086000). A typical two-bedroom forest lodge costs £437 for a three-night stay (Fri-Mon), £509 for four nights (Mon-Fri), and £804 for a week (Mon-Mon or Fri-Fri). This includes access to the World of Water, play areas and free entertainments.

Examples of charges: bicycles £8.50 per break (adult), £5 children; ricochet £5 half-hour for two: guided forest walks £2.50 adult, £1 child; French staurant £68 for two, three courses with wine. Activities outside the village include claypigeon shooting, fly fishing, rock climbing, pony trekking and 4x4 driving.

CENTER PARCS FACT FILE

■ Centre Pares, Sherwood Forest, stinghamshire (booking: 0990 200300) A typical two-bedroom villa costs £338 for a three-night weekend stay (Fri-Mon), £405 for four nights Mon-Fri and £594 for a week (Fri-Fri or Mon-Mon). This includes access to the swimming

paradise and play areas. Examples of charges: bicycles £9,50 adult, £5 children flor weekend); guided woodland walk E7.50 for adult and child (minimum age ten), including breakfast; Le Caprice restaurant, main

course £10-£16 per person.

Activities outside village include horse riding. laser clay shooting, golf course and field archery,

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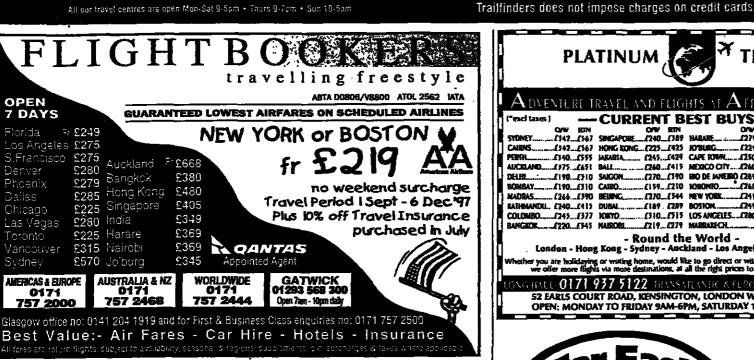
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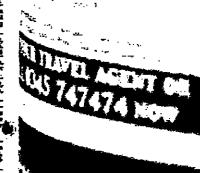
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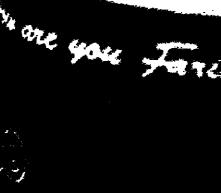
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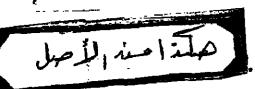
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The former Second World War RAF base on Gan Island in the Maldives has recently been turned into the Ocean Reef Club resort, offered by Kuoni for £699 a week

Get going for Gan

THE Second World War RAF base on Gan Island (codenamed "Port T), on the southernmost atoll in the Maldives, is the site of the recently opened Ocean Reef Club resort offered by Kuoni (01306 743000).

When the Maldives became independent in 1965, Britain retained the lease on Gan until 1975. Now the sergeants' quarters accommodate tourists, the officers' mess is a restaurant, the officers' quarters are used by visiting Maldives officials, and the church has been converted to a mosque.

Tourists and locals generally live on separate islands in the Maldives, but holidaymakers on Gan can see something of the traditions and daily life of the Maldivians by on the atoll, which are linked by a

Keen divers can explore the wreck of the oil tanker British Loyalty, damaged by a Japanese submarine in 1944 and later scuttled. Kuoni's all-inclusive holiday with full board and drinks, watersports and entertainment costs from £699 a week.

JILL CRAWSHAW'S INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TIPS

SOME interesting small cities are included in Citalia's (0181-686 5533) City Breaks in Italy. In Sicily, the old Norman-Byzantine stronghold of Palermo and Agrigento (the latter a modern town but with magnificent Greek temples) have been added to delightful Taormina. Three nights' B&B starts at £356, £341 and £317 respectively. On the mainland, a break in Tuscany's medieval town of San Gimiguano costs £271, while both Orvieto and Urbino in

Umbria start at £268, also for three

nights' B&B and flights. Car hire

Parador pass

destinations.

is recommended for some

SPANISH paradors are offering five-night passes at a fixed price of dation. The "Go As You Please" pass, valid until December 20, is flexible, allowing all five nights in one parador, one night in each of five or any other combination. Other special offers include: a 20 per cent discount at selected paradors for those staying on half-board for a minimum of two nights; for senior citizens (aged 60 or over), some paradors offer a 35 per cent discount between October and December. All parador accommodation can be booked through Keytel International (0171-402 8182).

Greek budget



POPULAR with families because of its sandy beaches, and recently awarded 42 EU Blue Flags for cleanliness, Halkidiki in Macedonia, Greece, is hoping to attract budget

holidaymakers by offering fixed-price food and drink in its restaurants and hotels. The set price of a glass of wine, ouzo or a colfee is 300 drachmas (68p); a brandy, 450 drachmas (£1.05); a salad, 650 850 drachmas (£1.95). The drachma has fallen by 16 per cent against sterling since this time last year and now stands at 435 to £1.

A peak-season package costs about £400 a week, £460 for two weeks' self-catering, or £600 for two weeks half-board. Nearby in Thessalonika - Cultural Capital of Europe for 1997 - there are many summer events and the treasures of Mount Athos are on display.

Get dug in

A BUSY 12-day tour for enthusiastic gardeners by Cedarberg Southern Africa Travel (0181-941 1717) combines the floral highlights of the Cape with visits to wine estates. whale watching, a game reserve, safaris to track white rhino and wetland wildlife. Also included is a steam train trip and a stay in a traditional Zulu village.

The Western Cape claims the richest floral diversity in the world, with more plant species on Table Mountain alone than in the whole of Britain. Garden lovers can tick them off on visits to the Kirstenboch Botanical Gardens, the Karoo, Stel-Harold Porter Botanical Reserve and Fernkloof Nature Reserve. The tour in October costs £1,770 halfboard, including flights.

SEVILLE's Isla Magica theme park opened in June following an investment of about £60 million. The central theme is Spanish Voyages of Discovery to the New World, with fortresses, rollercoasters, lost temples, the island of Eldorado and pirates,

including Francis Drake to be

tackled and repulsed. The Isla

from I lam to at least midnight

Magica is open seven days a week

until the end of November. A day

pass costs about £13 for adults, £9

for children and senior citizens. Night trains

TRAVELLING on overnight trains can offer a double advantage - you save time and also the cost of a night in a hotel. The latest edition of Thomas Cook Publishing's Guide to European Night Trains is full of useful information.

From Zurich to Barcelona with an overnight in a four-berth compartment costs SwFr170 (about £73) with breakfast included: Vienna to Amsterdam costs 2,706 schillings (£138) partment, or AS4,820 schillings (£245) in a first-class single compartment. Travelling from Brussels to Rome is BFr5,840 (£100) in a sixberth couchette, BFro.780 (£117) in a second-class three-berth compartment. The guide costs £7.95 from bookshops or direct from Thomas Cook Publishing (01733 503571/2).

For all the latest news on

bargain hotels, flights

and holidays see this Thursday's Times

Cuba to offer all-in resorts

planned for Cuba. spearheaded by a British tour operator in partnership with Fidel Castro's Government.

The Canadian parent company of Bluebird Holidays. LCI, has struck a deal to progressively take over management of several of the hotels in the Governmentowned Grupo Gran Caribe chain, which has 6,000 rooms in 18 hotels on Cuba.

LCI also has plans to build. in partnership with Grupo Gran Caribe, II more fourand five-star hotels in four undeveloped resort areas of Cuba, which will boost the island's bedstock by a sixth. Bluebird is earmarked as the main vehicle to fill the rooms, with plans to double tourism numbers from the

UK and the rest of Europe

within five years. Stephen Powell, Bluebird managing director said: There is a shortage of accommodation at the top end of the market in Cuba. I compare it to the Dominican Republic.

"With these developments. Cuba will take off. Among the European countries, Britain is the baby in terms of potential growth. But Cuba is becoming very fashionable."

An estimated 10,000 Britons will visit Cuba this summer. Bluebird wants to double the number and carry 100.000 from Europe in total within five years. The company is already in talks with airlines and other operators to run charter aircraft direct to the island next summer.

The new developments an based on the all-inclusive concept that has swept through the Caribbean in the past decade, and include golf. private heaches and water

In January, LCI took over the management of its first Grupo Gran Caribe hotel, the 400-room Pelicano in Cavo

Meanwhile, work will start on the II new properties on August I. When completed. from 1999, they will add 4,200 rooms to the island's total bedstock of 24,000 rooms. Several other hotel chains

are looking to Cuba for expansion, with the Spanish Sol Melia group already managing seven properties on the

The Cuban Government's desire to work with foreign companies is partly reflected in the fact that the poor quality of existing hotels has been a restraining factor in tourism growth. Only II per cent of rooms are considered to be five-star rated.

With airlines barred from flying to Cuba from US airports. Canada is the biggest market to Cuba, where demand is expected to fill the new properties during winter. LCI is primarily looking to Europe and other countries to

fill the hotels in summer. The new hotels will be built 65km east of the capital Havana and on the islands of Juvenes and Cayo Largo.

Steven Keenan



The age of Cuba's hotels has restrained tourism growth

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TRAVEL NEWS

Holiday price war

A DISCOUNTING war has broken out among travel agents following poor sales of summer 1998 holidays.

Thomas Cook is offering 12 per cent off holidays booked by this Monday after figures showed half of all bookings for next summer were for May and June. Dido Harding, head of retail marketing, said: "People just don't feel comfortable about booking next year's holiday until they have returned from this year's."

The Thomas Cook offer was immediately bettered, however, by rivals Going Places and Lunn Poly, which are offering 13 per cent off on certain holidays.

The discount battle follows the earliest-ever launch, in May, of brochures for the following summer. But only 180,000 holidays were sold in May, less than 2 per cent of capacity.

HOLIDAYMAKERS heading for the Florida beaches or skiers travelling to Colorado face a double tax whammy

this winter. The UK is to double Air Passenger Duty from £10 to £20 for flights outside the EU on November 1.

And now the USA is planning to quintuple its Airport Taxes from \$6 to \$31 (£19) from October 1. Visitors to America already pay £18 per person in US customs and security charges.

The charges, which are absorbed into tour operator or airline prices, will mean 10 per cent of holiday prices consisting solely of taxes, according to Airtours.

■ MORE BRITONS are going to Goa this winter than Majorca or France, according to Thomas Cook figures.
The company sold nearly
21,000 winter holidays to India

by the end of May, making it the fifth most popular destina-tion behind the Canaries. mainland Spain, Florida and the Caribbean. Overall, sales are up by a third year-on-year.



Paying the price for a seaview

From Dr Malcolm Walles, Leeds: WHEN booking an Airtours

holiday to Gran Canaria. the salesgirl in the Going Places travel agency stated that a seaview was included in the price. But at the hotel, I was told I could only have a seaview if I paid a not inconsiderable supplement. When I complained, the statement was denied and they referred me to a form I had signed which showed the seaview as a request which could not be guaranteed.

I did not, and would never interpret "cannot be guaranteed" to mean "will not be provided unless extra money is paid". It seems to me the wording is misleading.

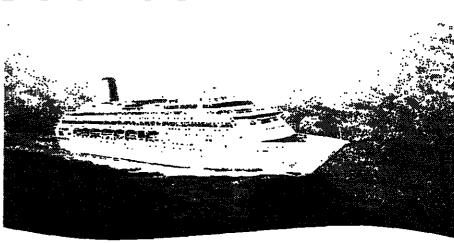
DR WELLES signed a form requesting a seaview and balconv. But Airrours did not have any seaview rooms in its allocation at the Melia Tamarindos in San Agustin.

Going Places admits that when it receives special requests, it uses a standard form and had no on-screen information to indicate no seaview rooms were available.

"It would be very difficult to find out what allocation of rooms each operator has in every case," said a spokeswoman. A spokeswoman for the hotel said it is common practice to charge a supplement for a room with a view. The rate offered was probably the public rate, she added, which would be higher than that negotiated with Airtours. ● Write to: Letters, Travel Department. The Times.

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9XN, or fax 0171-782 5124.



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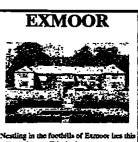




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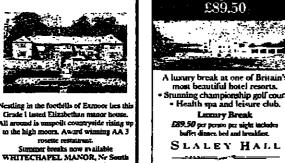
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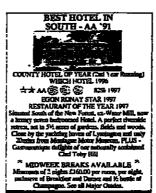
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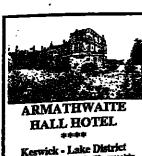


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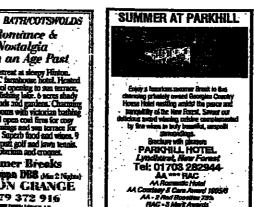
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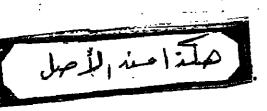


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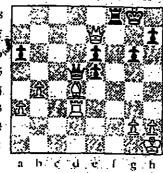
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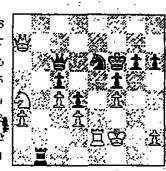
winning,

HE daily Winning Move puzzle solution:
Solution:
1 Nxc5 Qxc5 (1 ... Nxc5 2 Qe7 mate) 2 Rxe6+ Kxe6 3 Qxc5 ig position was published on uesday, April 22. Black to play. rom the game Tirard-Rotstein. annes 1997. Black could play I xd4 but White would still be in the ame. Instead, he found something nuch stronger.



... Qxd4! wins as if 2 Rxd4 Rfl is mate. 2 Qxe6+ Kh8 does not help. E. Johnson of Bristol suggests) ... Rfi+ 2 Bgt Qxd3, but after 3 Qxe6+ Kf8 4 Qxe5, Black would still have many difficulties to overcome. Several readers, includng Chris Armstrong of London, wonder why White does not try 2 Qxf8+ Kxf8 3 Rxf4 exf4 4 Kgl, preventing the black pawn from queening. This is White's best try, but Black is a pawn ahead in the endgame and will win easily.

Winning Move published Thursday, May 15. White to play From the game Bologan-Hubner, German Bundesliga 1997. Here White continued I Qh7 and lost.



Winning Move published on Fri-day, February 14. White to play. This position is from the game Agdestein-Adams, Iceland 1994.

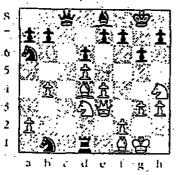
king escapes to safety.

As well as being Norway's top grandmaster. Simen Agdestein has also played international football for his country. How did he put the ball in the back of the net in this game from his match against Britain's Michael Adams?

Stuart Sheering of Dorset suggets that 1 Nxc5 can be met by

... Rf1+. However, after 2 Kxf1

Qhl+ 3 Kf2 Qxh2+ 4 Kel the white



I Nf5! creates too many threats for Black to cope with, eg. 1 ... exf5 2 Qg5+ mating, or 1 ... Qc7 2 Qh6 again mating.

Mrs S. Hamilton of Chichester wonders why White cannot play I Qho immediately. The reason is I ... fo, which defends against the checkmate threat on g7.

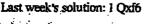
Remember, everyone who writes in for the first time will be rewarded with a free copy of the colourful Chess Monthly magazine, while all those whose queries or comments are published for the first time will receive a free quarterly subscription. So keep the que-

ries, games and positions coming. The first Mind Sports Olympiad. featuring more than 30 different thinking sports will take place at the Festival Hall in London from August 18-24. The chess section offers £10,000 in prizes. Entry details on 0171-485 9146.

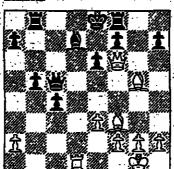
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene White to play. This position is from the game Erbis - Kempff, Stuttgart 1954. White has very strong play along the h4-d8 diagonal and on the open d-file. How did he now combine these two avenues of pressure to force a quick win?

Send your answer on a post-card to The Times, I Pennington. Street, London El 9XN: The first correct answer drawn on Thurs-id will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society, which includes a free invitation to the annual dinner at Simpson's-inthe Strand. The answer will be published next Saturday.



Last week's winner: J Cragg,



PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from The Strand Magazine (reproduced from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection. Marylebone Library).

The cartoon will be printed again next week with a caption from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption 60. Weekend, The Times, l Pennington Street, London El 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, July 16.





"So, Mrs Hamilton, your only experience is collecting envelopes?

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by J. Dunger, Stevenage, Hertfordshire

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

PAK PAI a. A taxi

 b. Martial art c. Microchip

PIPERADE

a. French military manocuvre b. Small tobacco-pipe

 c. Basque omelette RACKENSAK

a. Indian word-game

OCOTILLO

c. A spiny shrub

b. Native of Arkansas c. Nineteenth-century firearm

a. Spanish nobleman b. Eighth heir to an inheritance

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THE Cavendish tournament is the most famous money event in the bridge calendar. For the past 20 years it has been held in New York every May. This year it moved to Las Vegas, as the prize money had become so significant that the organisers were running the risk of falling foul of the New York gambling laws. Before the start, each pair is put up for auction. The successful purchaser then owns the pair (although the pair has the right to buy back a share). The money raised goes into a pool which, at the end of the tournament, goes to the owners of the leading pairs. This year the total auction prof

for the 60 pairs was \$1.3 million

(£765,000): the owner of the winning pair collected about \$350,000. The most expensive pair, at \$64,000, were the Italians Lauria and Versace, winners of this year's Macallan International Pairs and members of the Italian team victorious in the 1995 and 1997 European championship. Closely following them were Zia Mahmood and Michael Rosenberg, winners of the US team trials, on \$63,000. Helgemo, the world individual champion, and Helness fetched \$62,500; they were in the Norwegian team that was third in the 1997 European championship. All three pairs will be playing in the next Bermuda Bowl (the world championship). As you can see, the Cavendish draws a top-class field.

The eventual winners, Harry Tudor and Michael Seamon, had bought more than half of themselves at a cost of \$15,000; it made for a pretty good investment. Here they are in action (see the hand at the top of the next column).

♥A7642 +086532 N W E +015 ₹10983 **♦QJ**8 S **+**J97 **♦**A0652 ΨK +A109632 ż٨ Contract: Six Diamonds by South

Lead: four of clubs

This board was an indication of how the wind was going to blow for Tudor and Seamon (and it certainly needs to be blowing in your favour to win a 60-pair event). The game looks comfortable enough for North-South, particularly Three No-trumps by South, and the fortunate position in spades means that if you reach Five Diamonds you can survive even on a trump lead, since you can drop the king of spades in three rounds.

Seamon and Tudor were more ambitious: they reached Six Diamonds. They were lucky enough to get a club lead (a heart removes a vital entry). Can you spot the best

chance? It is to play for the clubs to be 3-3. Take the ace of clubs, ruff a spade. and ruff a club, then play a trump to dummy, and ruff another club. Play ace and another trump, and finally overtake the king of hearts with the ace to eash dummy's winning clubs. Your twelve tricks are two black aces, a spade ruff, one heart, five diamonds, and the three long clubs.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

'AND WHAT about the Internet?" asked the perplexed customer of the Dixons salesman. "Do I need to buy one of those, too?™ Confusion about the Internet, e-mail addresses, home pages and the like abounds, but in truth there is not much to know. Read on and you could win, if not the Internet itself,

then the next best thing. The Internet is not something you buy. It is out there somewhere, a massive bunch of intangible computer links in cyberspace limbo. It never closes. Nor does it need dusting once a week by men in boiler suits. It just is, fuelled and maintained by the many global computer systems linked into it.

To get onto the Internet, first you need a computer (like a Mac or a PC running Windows 3.1 or Win95) and a modern (the faster speed the better). Most home computers are connected via an Internet Service Provider (called an ISP), such as Compuserve or Direct Connection. which provides the necessary software to load onto your machine. Then, to access the Internet, you merely dial up a special access number via your telephone line and modem.

Once online, think of the Internet as a massive electronic book with

an equally massive index. Enter any keyword into the search engine and it will throw up exhaustive lists of links, Web site addresses which, once clicked on, whisk you directly to them.

It is these sites which can be compelling, everything from the equivalent of an electronic leaflet with a few pages of text and pictures, to more imaginative interactive zones which come alive with moving images and sound clips. The best way to explore is to stroll around for yourself. If the computer becomes inactive for too long, just click on the "home page" to get back to the beginning. You can also reach a site by typing in its specific address, the sort of line you'll find printed in

television programmes.

In addition to roaming the Internet, your ISP account also lets you send and receive private email. E-mail is like being able to send or receive a fax, except other files can be added, such as pictures. Your ISP will provide you with an e-mail address, along the lines of fbloggs@dircon.co.uk. Outgoing

newspaper stories or at the end of

by Tim Wapshott



Connection Internet account for a year

messages are sent when you are ready, incoming mail is received and held for collection.

That's really all you need to know to get going. Apart from the cost of an ISP account, the other expense is the cost of the local telephone call while you are online. The whole world is plugged in for the cost of a local call, which in some countries luckier than Britain

also happens to be free. But there are still ways to keep the online costs down. You can limit your calls to BT's weekend rate of less than a penny a minute from midnight on Friday to midnight on Sunday, and include the service number in your Friends & Families listing to shave a further 10 per cent off costs. Floppy discs offering free

trial periods with ISPs are widespread. On the matter of security, you will find that the Internet opens up a wide range of credit card purchasing from ordering online magazine cuttings to buying CDs. But I am not convinced about the absolute security of the Internet so, instead, only make orders using a credit card with a very low limit.

Cyberspace Thirty-Three offers a free Direct Connection account for a year to 12 readers. Not only will the winners get online with an e-mail address, the membership also allows you to make your own stylish splash on the Internet by authoring, or "publishing", your own site for others to visit. Direct Connection's team will provide full hands-on support to help you

design and put together your site. A full year's subscription to Direct Connection, which includes backup for would-be home page publishers, ordinarily costs £170.

The competition is open to all although a basic understanding of the Internet is important. You can enter as an individual or a group seeking to run a joint effort. Explain in 150 words why your Web site would be head and shoulders above the rest. It should serve some kind of useful purpose, if only to amuse. Should you win, it is hoped that you will endeavour to turn your Internet dreams into cyberspace reality.

Send you entry, together with your name, address and home telephone number, to: Cyberspace Thirty-Three, Computer Games and Pastimes, Weekend, The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN. The closing date is Tuesday, July 29. Normal Times competition rules apply and the judges will not enter into any additional correspondence.

This week's Top Tip comes from Jean Grzesik of Sheffield: "Save Internet costs by sending inane messages to people selected at random from the telephone directory."

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3418: Splaash by Kea

CROSSWORD

No 1144

DOWN

2 Bullfighter (7)

3 (Arduous) journey (4)

Table attendant (6)

6 Flouter of authority (5)

1 Freshwater speckled fish (5)

5 Thomas -, furniture-maker

ACROSS

1 Allure, entice (5) Prodigal person (7) Making phone call in jeop-artly (2,3,4)

Pendulum weight; cut short (3) 0 Movement of sea; sounds like drew (4) Shopkeeper (8)

3 Filament, fine line (6) Macgregor outlaw (Sir W. Scott) (3,3)

Altered (8) Step (of ladder) (4) Record: fuel for fire (3)

Life of luxury (Italian) (5,4) Falkland capital; searcher for Livingstone (7) Fragment (5)

7 Freedom (7) 12 Flower, has trumpet (8) 13 Burial mound (7) 15 Work pattern (7) 16 Thames regatta town (6) 18 Religious doctrine (5) 20 Serious, Meldrew's one foot in it (5) 21 Shed tears (4)

ILLTION TO NO 1143 ROSS: 1 Black Death 9 Erosion 10 Regal 11 Skip Conserve 14 B-movie 15 Crocus 18 Off-stage 20 Tito Stain 23 Edifice 24 Merseyside WN: 2 Lair 3 Condor 4 Derisory 5 Anger 6 Halley's net 7 Peaseblossom 8 Domino 13 Pittance 16 Critic agress 19 Flair 21 Wind

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11500 (2200 (Seach 7

ABOVE THE LINE, answers never abut: answers in the same row or column overlap, or there is a gap between them. Below the line, answers reading across may drift gently up and down. The overall arrangement of answers is symmetrical about a central vertical axis. Clues are given in normal order of appearance of the answers' starting points in the diagram, ie, left to right, top to bottom. Solvers need not add any bars or numbers, but should shade the unclued answer that is the puzzle's subject. All clued answers can be verified somewhere in Chambers (1993), except for the penultimate one (which is in Collins).

ACROSS Ban it as unorthodox? I'm entitled to Muslims' toleration Any woman that's no end of show off? Mountain nymph almost rejected an element for air

Lo, ——'s foul nasal ooze Careworn, every second's taken an eternity Likely to flourish at top (2 words) Listing 50 breaches in Congress Question followed scriptures

There's no hint of sanction to smash USA's source of

King's Counsel dressing in mini of black silk Ragged blouse — showing false parts Handle current around Italy? Superior swimmer is caught by packing company Yaws, knocking over a dock Mum has left mint on meal The king secures such victory in retreat

It gets Arabs water, liquor and what? Will's likely to bring suits on tick again, roughly about

Final sale's ending after I Jan

In it, hoc loco, Latin must have been read Edible seaweed, tangle's covering rock DOWN

Muslim way of escaping conjugality: endless narration on water? Pukes up violently, having stomach upsets

'Ultimate in excellence in the trade" award discontinued Be hot, endlessly holding pole, as palace guard Flowing script, last edited when governor's around So far, I'm inconclusively seen Couch-potato mulls, twiddling with his extremities Nancy gets opposing player to cut table-talk Raised outside of Otaki in New Zealand

heavenly place Love, Latin American love, right? Cat that's wild a long time, year in, year out Seizure cramping a person up Playing hob, a crone, I cling to broom Shut up last of neat among wild ox. yaks (2 words)
Having one around music and drama school, you should

Hope pay works out around grand (to start with). rounding at top or bottom of column
Name introduced to cause renewed interest in Shakespeare

Heartlessly intrusive, crashing? Not with this Beak is sent up around Northern detention centre (2 words) Seminal passage from mediocre anthology With us you must play by bridge contracts - North's

revoked Force's showing round detective in hearing System of bidding for contracts makes one pass Lady's fingers circle heaving chest

EMBRECAVEAT GDAOOPIRR EARRINGNERA OIIRTNTR CITALALLT LESMBIAO NAMENTSLITR E|S|I|L|E|U|A|T|E SSSURPASS MOVIET SE S NNLEML OAEEB LRS

Solution to No 3415: Coat of Arms by Peeper

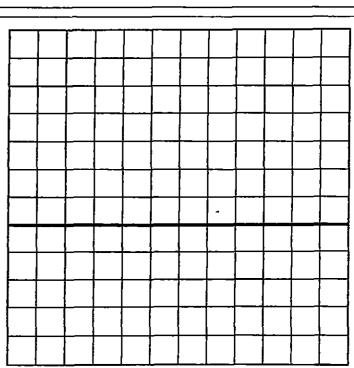
Motto: BETTER'N ANY OTHER FROG

From: The Celebrated Jumping Frog by Mark Twain

Method of shortening some answers: the colours AZURE, VERT, GULES, OR. ARGENT, SABLE and PURPURE are shaded in, respectively, as: HORIZONTAL LINES, LINES FROM DEXTER CHIEF TO SINISTER BASE, PERPENDICULAR LINES. DOTS, PLAIN FIELD, CROSS LINES HORIZONTAL AND PERPENDICULAR and LINES FROM SINISTER CHIEF TO DEXTER BASE. (Not all of these are given in Chambers.)

Solvers were also permitted to colour their solutions appropriately.

The winner is K. McAndrews, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The five runners-up are T. Allison, Derby: B. Jackson, Southampton: A. McBride, Edinburgh: J. Macintosh, West Wickham, Kent; R. Ogden, Bolton, Lancs.



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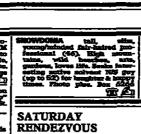
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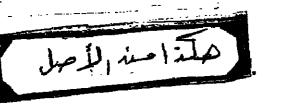
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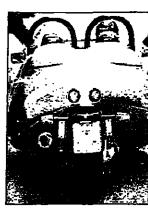




Exclusive offer for a Superbike race day Page 5



a sting faces a test in traffic



SATURDAY JULY 12 1997

Bride and vroom at the hot rod wedding Race fans roared as cupid took pole position: company, Narowe Executive Cars, is racing coordinator for the sport. Both he and Mr Roberts, minister of Kingswinford Methodist church in the



Don't spare the Rev. clergyman Andrew Roberts with Neil and Angie

for the 12,000 fans who turned out for the 1997 National Hot Rod world championship, the oval circuit became that bit more holy this week, when Neil Rowe and Angie French became "Mr and Mrs Hot Rod"

on the track. Neil, the formula chairman, and Angie, the club secretary, got off the grid of married life with a blessing from Methodist minister Andrew Roberts, the only clergyman in the National Hot Rod supporters' club.

The service at Foxhall Stadium, Ips-wich, followed a civic wedding in a register office, but to the couple the race track ceremony was the "real thing".

In full bridal gown, followed by a "train" of National Hot Rods, and with Wagner's wedding march playing Ruth Gledhill on a high-octane romance

through the public address system, Angie, blonde and buxom, motored onto the grid in style, bedecked in ribbons and resplendent on the pace car. They exchanged rings and pledged eternal love for richer, for poorer, in

sickness and in health", before their own lap of honour in front of cheering crowds as 33 hot rods lined up for the start. Originally inspired by American stock cars, National Hot Rod is a non-contact

sport on quarter-mile ovals, with about 25 race meetings a year. There are about 100 regular racers in Britain who spend £25,000 to buy and assemble one of the

custom-built Ford Fiestas, Peugeot 205s or Renault Clios, and a further £10,000 to run them for a season.

Sunday's world championship, televised by Sky, was won for a record-breaking fifth time by Northern Ireland's Ormond Christie, in his Fiesta. England's Dave Longhurst, in his Renault

Clio, was second.

Each of the 75 laps takes about 14 seconds, at an average 60mph, but with maximum speeds reaching 90mph. Ramming and bumping are banned and persistent offenders heavily penalised. Neil, 33, who owns a chauffeur-drive

met across a crowded desk and it was love at first sight. And in loving him, she fell in love with his sport.

A wedding on the track during Avon Tyres and Kent Cams' "Spedeweekend"

was the only way to ensure their family and many friends — drivers, mechanics and race fans - could be present, while at the same time allowing the couple to be there for the key date in the hot rod

West Midlands, have been watching

National Hot Rod since the age of eight. By contrast, the new Mrs Rowe was a

newcomer to the sport. Employed as a

temp by Neil four years ago, their eyes

Alan Copps discovers how the Silverstone home team plans to be in the winner's frame tomorrow

Jordan's eye-view of the British GP lead

Giancarlo Fisichella hurls his golden Jordan round the team's home circuit where the RAC British Grand Prix

takes place tomorrow. With the help of some clever gadgetry the Italian star pressed the button himself for this unique photograph during a practice session last week in which the Jordan team. with two of the youngest: all-French Prost team. drivers on the grand prixcircuit, laid down a challenge

Fisichella's teammate Ralf Schumacher, 22, who had already set the fastest time at Silversione this year, proved the quickest driver in that test session, with a lap of I minute 22.71 seconds, matched only by Heinz-Harald Frentzen in his Williams and eight hundredths of a second faster than his elder brother and championship leader Michael in his Ferrari. Fisichella was four tenths of a second behind him.

The Jordan team have already been on the podium twice this year, Fisichella, 24, came third in Canada last month and Ralf Schumacher achieved the same result in Argentina. There is nowhere they would rather score their first grand prix victory after 105 races than at Silverstone, where their factory stands just

50 yards from the circuit. More than any team, Jordan are confident they can spring a surprise at Silverstone. The British Grand Prix is different to the other races, not simply because this is our home, but because of the historical connections: Eddie Jordan racing was the first team to set up here in 1980 and the British Grand Prix not only acts as a reminder of how

view of Silverstone 21 but it is a good excuse to recall those early days," says Eddie

> off one surprise in this crucial from next year, when Peugeot, which has provided their power for the last three years. transfers its allegiance to the

> Gary Anderson, Jordan's technical director, believes there is more to come: "I am quietly confident that we could pull off a surprise at Silverstone. We have had a couple of good tests here and the car is good in fast corners. The Silverstone circuit is far better than last year - it is faster and more of a driver's circuit than previously, with excellent quick sections. Giancarlo and Ralf really

have lots of grip and the other areas do not. Since our aerodynamic package is good, however we do not have a problem on areas which lack grip. I'd love to win at Silverstone and I really do think the car's quick enough."

To achieve that, the Jordans with their vivid snake-emblazoned noses will have to get up into the furious battle between Michael Schumacher, and Jacques Villeneuve in the Williams. That's exactly what Ralf Schumacher did in the last grand prix in France when he qualified third on the grid, although he could only manage sixth in the race. Eddie Jordan is a bit more

The team has already pulled

nouncing they have signed a two-year deal to use the power-Mugen-Honda engine

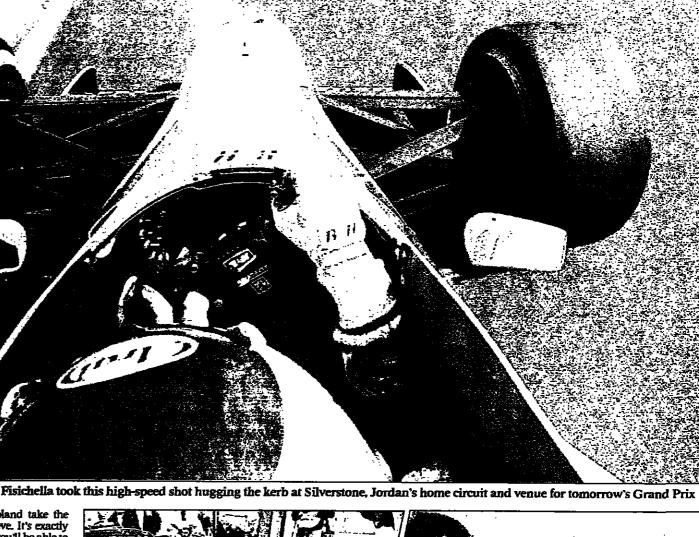
> e adds: "The surreserved about his team's prospects but he is quick to face is a little mixed, as the resurfaced areas

number of fans who come to see us. It becomes rather manic, but it is all good fun."

point out that his young drivers are gaining rapidly in confidence and are much more familiar with Silverstone than with some of the circuits in the early part of the season. For him the team's "home" race is a family affair, with all the 125 employees, sponsors and the Supporters' Club on hand as well as the business of trying to win. "Of course this grand prix is also the closest race to Ireland, so we have a huge

Despite all those pressures. the team's research and development technicians Paul Thompson and Gary North, known as "gadget", found time to help Times photographer Marc Aspland take the photograph above. It's exactly the sort of shot you'll be able to select from any driver in the race on your own television if the ambitious plans to float Formula One on the stock market and expand its interactive television coverage come to fruition.

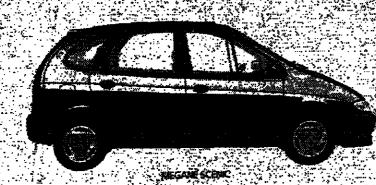
But while the aerodynamic video cameras that provide the usual in-car shots slot neatly into brackets which all teams have to provide, a special carbon-fibre bracket had to be fabricated for Aspland's camera. "We were a bit worried it might get pulled off in the slipstream, but fortunately it survived," said North. Still things have come a long way since Jack Brabham had to carry the whole photographic kit on his helmet.



Nothing but clear road ahead: Giancarlo Fisichella took this high-speed shot hugging the kerb at Silverstone, Jordan's home circuit and venue for tomorrow's Grand Prix



How we set up the equipment for our unique picture, left, and how Jack Brabham had to do it in the old days



£2800



indows + metallic paint + 3 years withinked valenge warranty all as standard = just £13,500 on the road. The Renault Megane Scenic RT life with these features = over £2,800 more @ £16,302.

PRICES CORRECT AT TRUE OF GOING TO PRESS AND INCLUDE NUMBER PLATES, DELIVERY AND 12 MONTHS' ROAD FLAD LICENCE.

Going spare over tyre changes

ne of life's great myster-ies will unfold at Silverstone tomorrow when ordinary motorists such as myself gaze in awe at the television and wonder why it is that what takes a Formula One team seven seconds can occupy at least an hour of my time.

Changing a wheel on a Formula One racing car can now be achieved in the blink of an eye. Indeed, the procedure is so rapid and so predictable that one wonders why on earth ITV feels the need to have a commentator in the pits, who can scarcely describe the procedure before it is over. It is like having a doctor give a commentary on a flu iab.

There is no greater gap in car development than that between wheel changing in motor racing

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Barnard

motoring. A mere mortal forced off the road by a puncture has no assistance and is quite likely to be encumbered by disadvantages not commonly encountered in a Ferrari. Indeed, the thought occurs that in the weeks between Formula One races, Murray Walker could from a helicopter as various drivers rub their chins at the sight of a flat tyre

Walker: Well, they seem to be going along the A303 quite nicely, probably headed for Devon, no they aren't. they're in a lay-by, oh dear oh dear, that looks like a flat right front, yes, no, that's ... Martin Brundle: That's a flat left

rear, Murray ... Walker: Absolutely right, what a shame, what a way to start a holiday. The driver's out of the car.

what's he doing Martin? Brundle: He's kicking the tyre Murray. I'm looking through the binoculars and that seems to be quite a mix of rubber, a Goodyear right front, a Bridgestone left front, something cheap and nasty right



Walker: Well, what we can see is pretty interesting procedure, clock's already showing 2 mins 10 secs, and - yes, I thought they might - the mother, the daughter, the son and the dog are out of the car and taking the picnic table off the roof rack so clearly they're grabbing the chance to take on

Brundle: This is good thinking, the family clearly had a one-stop strategy in mind so they're making the tyre stop into a food stop as well, oh dear, I see it's the usual car boot design where the spare tyre is underneath all the luggage

Walker: Look at that! He's out the three suitcases and the dog basket on the ground behind him lifting the tyre he's stepped backwards on to the dog, which had climbed into the basket, oh dear oh

Brundle: I think the driver's OK Murray but the dog seems pretty

angry...
Walker: Unbelievable! You would not credit that a dog could

pick up a fully-inflated tyre les

Brundle: Let alone bite right through the rubber, Murray. Walker: The force of the air escaping has thrown the dog cleanover the hedge and there seems to

be a, is that a cow? Brundle: Judged by its headdown running stance Murray would say that's a bull.

Walker: My goodness it is a bull and it's picked up the dog on its horns and has jumped over the hedge and landed on the, has it, I can't quite...

Brundle: It's landed on the car Murray.

Walker: Well fortunately the wife and children had set up the picnic table some distance from the car, probably to avoid hearing the. language that often accompanies a puncture, but now the driver has a bit more of a problem than a mere

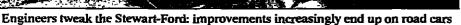
Brundle: He's got a write off. Миттау.

Walker: It's a sad end and although I'm the last to condone violence against animals you can understand why he's attacking the bull with the wheel brace. Brundle: Not much else to use it

for, Murray.

Links between road and racetrack are stronger than ever as carmakers seek faster results, says Vaughan Freeman







Former racer Jackie Stewart with the new Ford Puma coupé he was involved in developing: it's one of the best-steering cars now made, he says

Why the Transit in front iesel Ford Transits will be scarce on the grid of tomor-British Grand Prix at Silverstone, but has Formula One parts the battered plumber's van that cut you up yesterday has more in common with Formu-

la One than you think. Similarly the blue-ovalled mick, a way of making our Puma looks cute and sporty, but its 125mph top speed is cars sell. "In the last 18 months we puny against the 200mph-plus have decided to try to get more monsters also powered by Ford engines. Yet, like the out of the motorsport deal, to

row's

and brake-activated traction

control system to prevent wheel-spin, all derive from

technology. Every year car-makers spend tens of millions

of pounds on Formula One,

and they want their money back. Developments trackside

are finding their way on to road cars faster than ever.

Electronically controlled anti-

lock brakes and traction con-

trol first saw the light of day in Formula One test cars and

though both are now banned

by the racing authorities, have

become commonplace in cars

European Motorsport Technical Director, speaking to CAR of this week while at

Silverstone for the Ford-

powered Stewart GP team's

tyre testing session, said: "In

the past motorsport has been

Tyrone Johnson, Ford's

driven by millions.

developments on the track. The gap is closing between grand prix and road car

get technology back that will Transit, the Puma shares its automotive genes with its FI help us in other areas. At the same time as Ford is relatives. Even down to its helping the Stewart team. The chief test driver, three-times world champion Jackie link helps us identify new and faster ways of doing things. Stewart. The modern Transit uses not just ways of improving "drive by wire" grand prix specific components on our technology which gets rid of production cars but also ways the cable between engine and of accelerating our entire car accelerator. Instead a dab on

the throttle electronically tells the engine management comeing able to design puter how much fuel to pump and develop new cars into the engine. for customers faster The Puma's aluminium enis a key area, says Johnson: the competition, pargine, anti-lock braking system. ticularly the Japanese, can sleek aerodynamic shape, electronic engine management bring out a new car from scratch in two years. and engine computer systems.

"Engineers in Formula One are constantly coming up with new ideas, and all these things are considered in terms of whether or not we can adapt them on road cars."

Though active suspension is now banned in Fl, it was developed by Ford during its partnership with Benetton and was introduced in limited numbers on the new Mondeo in Germany when the car was

In Formula One, the days of mechanics puzzling over a spluttering engine armed with wrenches and spanners is long gone. Instead white-overalled computer boffins just plug into the racing car's memory chip to see what is wrong. These chips, now feature on cars like the Mondeo and Ka. Dealership technicians also plug into the car's engine to see if there

are any problems. It is a two-way street. When Ford launched its current Forprimarily a marketing gim- mula One programme in 1985,

its early racers adapted an electronic engine-management system then used in Ford's road cars. Thanks to the demands of racing the unit has shrunk to a third of its size and a fraction of the weight, become far more powerful and, as a new generation engine management unit has found its way back to

roadgoing cars. Johnson says: "We are helping Stewart Grand Prix to develop a more aerodynamic car for the track, and what we learn at the same time goes back to our people to help them develop more aerody-

namic road cars." Bruce Cambern, head of Ford's worldwide race programme, says: "In Formula One every added ounce of weight saps acceleration, and every extra cubic inch of volume adds drag which slows

century after he finished racing, the desire to succeed still drives Jackie Stewart, writes Jonathan Crouch. Today, however, the stakes are higher. The giant Ford corporation employs him to test efforts of its engineers and

He has rigorously scrutinised the Purna, Ford's latest small sports coupé, and the former world champion is proud of the result. He first worked with Ford

on the original Mondeo, and formed an instant rapport with the company's vice president of small and medium vehicle engineering, Richard Parry-Jones, as Stewart sensed that the Welshman was someone who understood his point of view.

"My concerns are centred around the issue of driveabil-

nicates to its driver through the steering, the accelerator and the brakes," Stewart says. The importance of this area of vehicle development isn't widely appreciated but Richard understands it perfectly. Whether he's driven the car or not, I feel that I can pick up the phone and say: 'Richard, I

really feel strongly about this," and know that he'll get the job "Once you launch a car and once you've given it your blessing, you can't take it back - it has to be right. To achieve that, it's no good for me to be merely a critic. I need to get personally involved."

Last year he spent more than 135 days on test tracks in Europe, the United States and South America, developing the superminis, family hatchbacks and sports coupés you will be buying in this century

and the next. Plus of course, a car that is already here: the

Stewart has been driving Puma prototypes and pre-production models for the past three years, mostly at Ford's proving ground in Belgium. Though pleased with the end result, he is quick to point out that much of the groundwork

had already been done. "In the little Ford Ka. we'd already created what, in my view, is the single best steering car in the world," Stewart said. "Interesting, isn't it, that most of the good steering cars are the least expensive ones? This is a trend I think we've continued with Puma.

"When I was racing, I always wanted a car that worked with me so that I could drive consistently right on the limit. That way, I was able to repeat lap record speeds with ease and creativity.

"I ve driven Pumas in various configurations with different engines in Belgium and that's a balance we've always been able to reach - and not only in terms of steering. In things like accelerator pedal modulation and progressive braking, we've used the same approach."

ROUTES TO SILVERSTONE

he Formula One cars might reach 185mph at Silverstone but visitors will be lucky to do 5mph on their way to and from the grand prix, which is once again a sell-out, with crowds

of 90,000 expected.

To help readers keep moving, CAR 97 offers suggested routes to the public car parks and for centre pass holders The organisers recommend arriving at night, when the car parks will remain open and catering will be provided. The circuit opens at 6am today and 5am on race day

Route for Abbey, Luffield, Woodcote, Pit Straight, Startline and Copse grand-stand ticket holders and

tornorrow.

FROM the south-west.
A34, crossing M40 at junction
9 onto A41 than A421. Follow signs for public car parks and north stands. Enter at West

Entrance 1. FROM M1 North: leave at junction 15a, join A43. Follow signs for Silverstone and north stands; enter at North En-trance or East Entrance. FROM M1 South: Leave M1 at junction 11, join A505 Dunstable, A5 Towcester and

enter at East Entrance. Route for Becketts, Stow and Club grandstand ticket holders and spectator Ð

perets of grant fast-fi

The Robert Port of the Parket

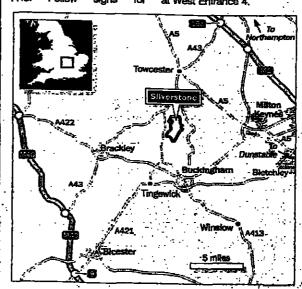
FROM south-west — take the A34, crossing M40 at juntion 9 on to the A41 then A421. Follow signs for public car parks and south stands; enter at West Entrance 9 or

FROM M1 north — Leave the motorway at junction 18 and follow the A5, then the A43, south or leave at junction 15a to join the A43. Follow signs for Silverstone and south stands; enter at West Entrance 9 or 11.

EFROM M1 south — Leave
M1 at junction 11, join A505 to

Dunstable, then A5 to Towcester and A43. Follow signs for Silverstone and south stands; enter at West Entrance 9 or 11.

Centre Pass holders should follow the routes above and then from the south-west follow signs for public car parks and centre passes; from the north and south, follow the signs for Silverstone and north stands, then follow signs for centre passes; at West Entrance 4.



PARTNERSHIP AS OLD AS BRITISH ROAD RACING

t's a case of plus ca change for the British Grand Prix. The official title is now the RAC British Grand Prix, thanks to sponsorship from RAC Mo-toring Services, which is celebrating its centenary this year, writes Alan Copps.

The first such race in Britain in 1926 over a pseudo-road circuit at Brooklands was known as the RAC Grand Prix. It was won by a Delage at an average speed of 71.6mph. In 1948 when Silverstone staged its first race it was called the RAC International Grand Prix and in 1950 the RAC British Grand Prix was the first event in the

new World Drivers' Championship. The revived title perpetuates a link with motorsport that has existed since the first races of any kind were held in this country. The RAC Motor Sports Association is the governing body for

Rac **British Grand Prix** Silverstone 1997

Britain. "We had been organising the Grand Prix for a long time but you would hardly have known," says Jonathan Ashman, director of major events and marketing for RACMSA. "If Silverstone is the producer then we are the director, the sporting authority that deals directly with the FIA, the world

governing body." RACMSA has overseen the redesign of the track, which will make this year's race faster, and provides 1,200 flag marshals, track safety officials, observ-

ers and scrutinecers and a medical team. "It's a ten-month process selecting all these people. We need the best and most experienced in the country and they all have to be chosen by January and undergo special training. They get paid expenses for lunch and so on but otherwise it's all voluntary." says Ashman.

But the RAC's involvement is not restricted to the track. There will be scores of patrols, under the control of Norman Winchester, the RAC's special events manager, on hand to help spectators. And before the 200mph Formula One cars go out on the track each day, the 27 vehicles of the RAC's Centenary Fleet, ranging from a 1912 Phelon and Moore motorcycle to a brand new orange-painted Transit will parade around the circuit.

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nughan Freeman

light, fresk and delicious."





Tyrrell's team manager tells pit crew that Jos Verstappen is gening the signal this time round, pit crew come out of the garage and get ready

The driver goes past plus wild is told by his pit board to take on tyres and fuel. At same time, the radio signals: "Box, los Box. He acknowledges and warps pit crew of special repairs through crash damage or sauts

Verstappen warned: "Speed limit": Driver presses the

mmed speed limiter before he crosses the entrance to the pit lane. To team: "Jos is in" The pit signal board is turned around to show the location of the team for the driver. The driver arrives at the pits and aims

to stop on the marks on the ground as shown by the team

Fuel hose connected, red light indicates fuel is flowing

Gillis are removed, each wheelman raises his hand to signal

Secrets of grand prix stars' fast-food girls



Poole tries life

with the stomach

pitstop teams

Tormula I drivers are kept lean and mean on the low-tat regimes of muesli and pasta decreed by their personal dieticians and fitness trainers. Snake-hipped, buil-necked, and rigorously disciplined they may be, but these fear-somely fit young men share the same cravings for comfort

food as lesser mortals. When chocolate ice-cream and brownies emerge from the kitchen of Marlboro's VIP hospitality unit after the race, it is an open secret that their destination is Michael Schumacher's mobile home. Schumacher's Ferrari team-mate, Eddie Irvine dips into the fridge for a well-chilled Twix or KitKat and has a legendary

thirst for tea. World champion Damon Hill has a secret stash of funsize Dairy Milk bars in the Arrows kitchen, and the Brazilian Arrows driver Pedro Diniz is famous for "eating

Parmesan with anything".
Their little weaknesses are no secret to the girls who cook for the teams during the grand prix season. The caterers are as essential a part of the Formula One circus as the technicians, mechanics, sponsors and team bosses. This weekend, it is the British contingent who will be on

No team is more experienced than the girls from Wings, ex-British Airways hostess Sally Hart's catering company, which has been on the road since 1981. While the drivers breakfast on fruit and meusli, the mechanics start

their day with a fry-up. In the pits, lunch is pizzas. sandwiches and stickies, while the teams' guests eat "London restaurant-style food", says Hart, who took a chef from her Riverside Cafe in Ware out to Monaco. "It is modern food,



Teams cater for everything from corporate hospitality to drivers' comfort snacks

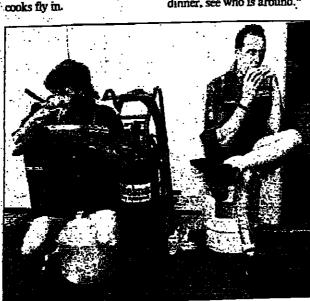
feeding Ferrari's guests for sponsors Mariboro, and the Arrows team and their VIPs. "It is the hardest work you'll

ever do, and the best job you'll ever have," says Kate Haberson, who runs the Ferrari operation. "The For-

mula I catering operation is as finely tuned as the cars." The routine is well polished. Caterers arrive at the circuit on the Tuesday before race day. Their mobile kitchens and support vehicles are driven to the European circuits by crews who will double as barmen and waiters. The

In Europe it is fine because we are totally equipped, we have ample fridges and freez-ers and everything in the kitchens is just so," Haberson explains. "But when we go long haul, we have field kitchens, and it is more like

For the European races, the operation is more polished. "When we arrive at the circuit on Tuesday we have a quick clean-down of the vehicles and check where the best markets and supermarkets are. We do our menus then go out and have some dinner, see who is around."



This season, Harr's girls are Travelling life means meals abroad can be more basic

Wednesday's big shopping expedition is followed by past ry making, cake baking, boil-ing stock and preparing anything else that can be done in advance.

By Thursday morning Haberson and her six-strong team are washing salads and stripping chickens. Eddie Irvine wanders in for a quiet cuppa, and first of the sponsors arrives for lunch.

The pace hots up on Friday, with people snatching meals between the practice sessions. There's a big trade in after-noon tea — even the Italians pop round for tea now. Saturday's routine is simi-

lar. The numbers who will want breakfast, a quick espresso, lunch, tea or dinner ebb and flow with practice sessions. Sunday, race day, is the climax for drivers, sponsors and spectators. There is less pressure on the hospitality units, and before the race is finished, they are stealthily packing up. So is it a glamorous life?

Kate and Sally grin in unison. You have to have girls who are fairly mature, who can handle the attention," says Sally. "It is like bees round a honeypot when someone new comes in. It can be quite disheartening for the other girls if suddenly the boys don't want you to take the ice-lollies down to the pits because they want the new girl to do it."

A TIMES NEWSPAPERS COMPETITION

Play Fantasy Formula One



Prizes worth £40,000 Marlboro



omorrow's British Grand Prix is the nineth race in our 1 £40,000 Fantasy Formula One competition and the third of six races offering bonus points to the managers who correctly predict the first three drivers to finish. Heading our leaderboard after the French GP is L Ackland from Guildford. His team, Aston O, has 5,919 points. TO ENTER If you have not yet entered a team into our E40,000 competition use the panel, below right, to make three selections from each of the four groups and call 0891 405 001 (+44 990 100 31) outside the UK).

THE PRIZES The manager with the best team score after the European Grand Prix on October 26, will win the first prize of £25,000 courtesy of our sponsor Marlboro World Prizes of £10,000 and

E5,000 will go to two

Eurostar and a three-night stay in Liege. The runner-up will get a Sony PlayStation and Formula One game.

TRANSFERS You can change up to four selections before the German Grand Prix by calling 0891 555 994 (+44 990 100 394 ex UK) before noon Thursday, July 24. Your new team must have three selections from each of groups A. B, C select will be your prediction for the Belgian GP bonus points.

and D. The first three drivers you Belgian GP bonus points.
CHECK YOUR SCORE Check your score and position after the British Grand Prix on 0891 884 648 (+44 990 IOO 348 ex UK) with your 10-digit open on Wednesday.

OUR LEADERBOARD AFTER THE FRENCH GRAND PRIX

| | | as Britte : Tilst | |
|------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------|
| POS | TEAM NAME | MANAGER NAME | POINTS |
| 1 | Aston O | L Ackland | 5919 |
| 2 | What Alesi Bunch! | N Rowe | 5899 |
| 3 | The Chequered Flags | A Cooper | 5771 |
| 4 | Petunia | Staszkiewicz | 5763 |
| 5 | Team Julius II | C Gale | 5761 |
| 6 | Tetch-Meisters Racing | | 5748 |
| 7 | Dow Jones 2 | i Dowty | 5746 |
| 8 | Waite Racing F1 | P Waite | 5741 |
| 9 | Formula Uno | P Tabone | 5732 |
| 10 | Parkhurst Racing | L Danson | 5723 |
| 11 | Dragon Racing | R Davis | 5721 |
| 12 | Verna Superstars | H Coulter | 5716 |
| 13 | John Hunt 23 | J Hunt | 5713 |
| 14 | Barnstoneworth 1a | Lawrenson | 5665 |
| 15 | Gwilt F1 | D Gwilt | 5653 |
| 16 | JB1 | l Rock | 5623 |
| 17 | John Hunt 8 | J Hunt | 5622 |
| 17 . | John Hunt 10 | J Hunt | 5622 |
| 19 | John Hunt 29 | J Hunt | 5613 |
| 20 | Brit F1 | R Belcher | 5612 |
| 20 | Ben Ellton | S Nicholls | 5612 ' |
| 20 | Dustscreen Racing | B Tolerton | 5612 |
| 23 | Bring Back Brindle | M Woodley | 5601 |
| 24 | Team Peter | P Thompson | 5600 |
| 25 | Salanco | S Dankevirs | 5503 |

MAKE 3 SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THESE FOUR GROUPS The first column of figures in light type after the names shows the Fantasy Formula One French GP race scores, the second column the total competition points so far

runners-up. The manager with the most points in the British

courtesy of BAC Sport. The prize includes return travel on

Grand Prix will win a trip for two to the Belgian Grand Prix

| (************************************* | * , tile | V-32-25 | Charles | | |
|--|-------------|---------|--------------------------|----------|----------|
| O1 D Hill | 116 | 379 | 07 M Hakkinen | 25 | 670 |
| 02 M Schumache | r 172 | 1012 | 08 D Coulthard | 112 | 672 |
| 03 J Villenøuve | 125 | 739 | 99 R Barrichello | 40 | 421 |
| 04 E Irvine | 140 | 804 | 10 HH Frentzen | 147 | 830 |
| Q5 J Alesi | 129 | 845 | 11 J Herbert | 128 | 690 |
| 06 G Berger | 0 | 653 | 12 M Salo | 59 | 694 |
| 100 m | 9 . <u></u> | y=18 | CROPE : | | <u> </u> |
| 13 J Trulli* | 115 | 885 | 19 G Fisichella | 118 | 758 |
| 14 J Verstappen | 14 | 565 | 20 S Nakano | 12 | 485 |
| 15 U Katayama | 123 | 515 | 21 N Fontana* | 37 | 704 |
| 16 P Diniz | 59 | 440 | 22 T Marques* | -5 | 490 |
| 17 R Rosset | 0 | G | 23 J Magnussen | 35 | 429 |
| 18 R Schumache | r 124 | 453 | 24 V Sospiri | 0 | 0 |
| CONSTRUCTION | é e | ďγ | 20.87(0 008 | S.O. | 1 |
| 25 Williams | 25 | 117 | 31 Arrows | 5 | -69 |
| 26 Ferrari | 30 | 180 | 32 Sauber | 9 | 82 |
| 27 McLaren | 0 | 87 | 33 Tyrrell | -20 | 9 |
| 28 Benetton | 12 | 130 | 34 Minardi | 6 | 32 |
| 29 Jordan | 21 | 60 | 35 Stewart | -20 | -59 |
| 30 Prost | 7 | 81 | 36 Lola | 0 | 0 |
| "Rule 2 applies, Jam | o Trusti o | f Minar | di renlaces Olivier Pari | s In the | Proot |

eam. Tarso Marques replaces Trulli at Minardi and at Sauber Norberto

Fontana replaces Gianni Morbidelli, who originally replaced Nicola Larin).

FANTASY FORMULA ON

0891 calls cost 50p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 990 calls).

CHANGING TIMES

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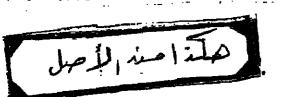
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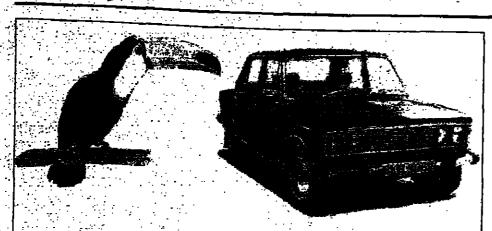
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GLADA Bughtars.

Iron curtains for poor Lada

iokes, After 24 years, selling more than 330,000 cars, Lada has bowed out of the British market, probably for good. The stundy Russian cars

founded their reputation on the sort of gags that would make even executives at Skoda blush, but the cars were durable and carved a niche among the car buyers who believed economical transport was more important than image.

Owners needed to be as durable as the cars to cope with their noise discomfort and early unreliability.

The cars were miraculously outdated, a testimony to management with the vision of an ostrich and the investment power of a tramp — which is Gear survey re-why they cannot be sold here cently, if was also any longer. Incheape, the im- one of the first to porter, has not been able to import any new models from Tolyatti, Lada's factory, for six. months since the cars failed. undated European Commun-

ity emission iests. The cantankerous, four-cylinder salouns and hatchbacks because that was the only steel we are very sad that the were too dirty to be sold in environmentally conscious European markets. Yet Ladas had created their could work with.

Clean-air rules finish off the basic box of Soviet bolts that many Brits

came to love, reports Kevin Eason

own small place in British motoring history, and a car that sold at the rate of around 14,500 a year cannot be dis-

missed merely as a joke. An estimated 118,000 Ladas are still on Britain's roads, As Vladimir Kaddanikov, a testimony to the model's durability if not its quality.

Even though the marque had the worst reputation for reliability, scoring bottom or J. D. Power/Top offer a three-

year/60,000 mile warranty. Simple three-box and Avtovaz, Lada's outdated manufacturing company,

But the cars last and last, they just get on with it come hail, rain or snow. "In Russia, we do not always have roads. Often we just have general directions in which we drive,"

director of Avtovaz,

"There are people

Vehicle

David Bray, sales and market-'Owners need to be ing director of Mo-Imports, iust as Inchcape subsidiary which brought durable as the cars into this country, says, their cars

who really do just to cope' want to get from A to B in their cars, who are not interbodies were built from heavier ested in the frills of motoring. gauge metal than that used in . The cars were good business typical European cars, and always had their place so factory just can't supply us any

> Popular belief says that Ladas were for losers, but



Lada's basement prices made buyers extremely wary



Cars like the Samara look as if they're out of the Ark

careers and fortunes were built on the business.

Mike Holt started as a car dealer with a Lada franchise in Bolton. Lancashire; now he has three dealerships in Bolton, Blackburn and the Isle of Man, plus another four dealerships with other manufacturers. His garages are among 90 still in business and supplying parts and maintenance to existing owners.

"Without Lada, I could not have moved into other dealerships and be where I am now," says Holt.

But buyers were always going to regard any car which sold for £3,995 with suspicion good to be true. When Lada executives hit on the idea a year ago of giving away a free

mountain bike - worth £7,000 with every new car, the instant reaction was that the company should give away a car with every mountain bike.

A taxi driver in the posh resort of Hove, East Sussex, was banned because he drove a Lada and, inevitably, the hapless star of BBC's Driving School series - 55-year-old cleaner Maureen Rees from Cardiff - was learning in the family Lada.

For Lada was always the butt of the joke. Why does a Lada have a heated windscreen? So you can warm your hands as you push it. What do you call a Lada convertible? A skip.We have heard them all before but now the jokes are over and there will be no more new Ladas on Britain's streets.

I've seen the future, and there isn't one: Russia's sad state

Kevin Eason

نعلدًا منه للم

sees Lada back in the USSR

aven-haired, luscious-lipped, curvawere just the assemceous ... and they bly line workers.

I walked the assembly lines of the Lada factory plant in Tolyatti, 600 miles from Moscow, on a short journey into a time warp. Row upon row of cars on one of the longest assembly lines I have ever seen were piled up - yet barely moving as workers sat

around chatting. Stranger still to Western eves used to watching men working at a furious pace in factories such as Nissan's plant at Washington, Tyne and Wear, or the Longbridge factory in Birmingham belonging to Rover, the bulk of the assembly work seemed to

be done by young women. They might have dressed in overalls but their faces looked ready for a night on the dance floor, their rouge and scarlet lipstick glowing under the dingy strip lights of the factory, their hair piled high into the sort of beehive that made Dusty Springfield famous. The average age could have been no more than 19 or 20. While they struggled with dashboards and exhausts, the men sat bored, playing

backgammon. The frantic world of competition simply passed Lada by. The Tolyatti factory opened in

Women workers do all the graft on the production lines

monolithic Communist ethic of controlled production, but which was to make a version of the Fiat 124. But nothing changed and by 1989, Lada had been left behind.

To say the Tolyatti visit was educational would be an understatement. Assembly shops were dark and messy, redolent of a Victorian sweatshop - if anybody had been sweating. Lines of rusting bodies greeted us at the door before making their painfully slow progress through the huge

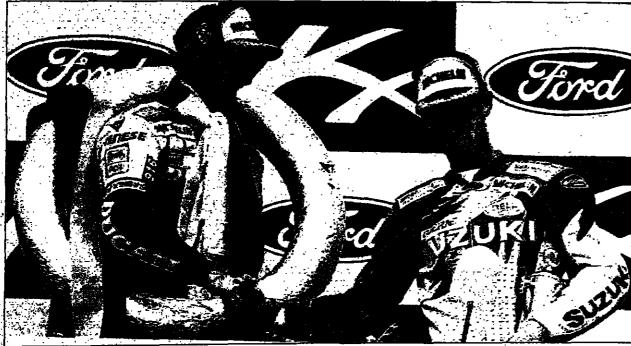
The high-speed testing bowl had more craters than Mars. At one point, while a screaming Lada Riva was pounding around the circuit, an old woman jumped over the barrier to make her way for her shift at the factory.

While Britain was adopting revolutionary change on the factory floor, the Russians of Tolyatti were still screwing together basic cars for the common man.

This has left the factory with mounting debts - up to £1.25 billion by the end of last year - and a range of models as up to date as Bill Haley's Rock Around the Clock. General Motors, Honda and Daewoo all looked at the Tolyatti plant with the idea of providing help or investment — and walked away.

Ladas will still be on sale in the old Soviet bloc, but modern Europe is now out of bounds. Tolyatti would need hundreds of milli pounds of investment to turn it into a modern, vibrant car plant. Its workers would need a culture transplant.

WORLD SUPERBIKE SERIES AT BRANDS HATCH



Home hopes and fellow Yorkshiremen: Carl Fogarty of the Ducati team, left, and Suzuki's James Whitham

Carl's a last-chance hero

B ritish sports fans growing accus-tomed to watching their heroes flop could be in for a shock at Brands Hatch next formight, where Briton Carl Fogarty is tipped to win at European round of the Superbike World Champion ship, writes John Naish.

With Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski collapsing at Wimbledon, Damon Hill trailing the Formula One car championship, and things looking grim for the England cricket team, the nation is short of heroes. Fogarty could be our best bet. He is currently leading the superbike series, which hits the half-way mark at

Laguna Seca, in America, tomorrow. And Brands is considered one of his best tracks - he won both superbike races there in 1995 on a Ducati, when he last lifted the World Championship crown. The Brands Hatch meeting, on August

1-3, provides home race fans with a second chance to see superbike racing this year. While the British round was held at Donington in April, the Brands Hatch evens is the European round. This was intended to have been held in Eastern Europe, but political instability prevented . this, and the Kent circuit is considered the

best alternative venue. The Superbike World Championship has proved a hit with British racegoers because the bikes are based on the road machines that many fans ride themselves. But that's not to say that the racers are on stock machines - they're heavily modified, with strengthened frames, lightened

chassis and tuned engines. Motorcycle racing fans' interest in the John Naish talks to a Briton who still could become world champ

series is greater this year, too, because the competition is close. All the factorysupported riders are still in with a shout. The other big motorcycling world series, the 500cc Grand Prix, has turned into something of a procession, however, with Michael Doohan now having nearly twice as many points as his nearest rival.

Fogarty had a poor season last year with Honda, but now is back with Ducati, and back in front. At each meeting, two races are held, and at the Donington meeting Fogarty came second in the first race, and first in the second.

With typical Yorkshire bluffness, however, Fogarty is sanguine about his chances. Brands is one of my good tracks, but it's hard to predict because you never really know how it's going to go until you get there," he says. "I don't think that this year's Ducati is as good as the one I raced there two years ago. It's not been that easy to ride, and seems to run

out in corners." And how does he feel at being one of Britain's few remaining bright sporting prospects this year? "I'm still leading the championship, and I only race in order to win," he declares. "I've probably got more motivation than any other sportsman in

Britain at the moment " Rivals, too, are ready to praise Fogarty. Castrol Honda team, says its riders, American John Kocinski and New Zealander Aaron Slight, will be his main challengers, "At Brands, Fogarty will take some beating, expecially with a huge crowd of around 65,000 cheering him on. After the British Formula One Grand Prix, this will be the best-attended motor sport event in Britain."

Honda will have its own ace up its sleeve, Herring says, as Brands Hatch comes just after Japan's Suzuka eighthour race, which is so important to the home factories that they dedicate special teams to it. Once the race is over. Honda's leading-edge race equipment is made available to the superbike team: "It's like racing-spares Christmas," he says.

But Fogarty is not the only Yorkshireman in with a chance. James Whitham, riding for the British-run Suzuki team, secured two third places in the last two rounds - the team's first rostrum positions since its creation last year, when Witham returned to racing after a battle with Hodgkinson's disease. "Brands should be a good track for us." says a team spokesman. There's that extra incentive when riding in front of the home crowd."

Championship leaders and points after five of 12 rounds: 1 Carl Fogarty (Ducarl), 177; 2 John Kocinski, (Castrol Honda) 163; 3 Aaron Slight (Castrol Honda), 155; 4 Simon Crafar (Kawasaki), 113; 5 Pier Francesco Chili (Ducati) 99.

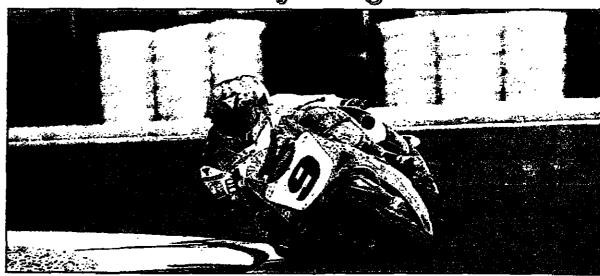
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Last year 57,000 people packed Brands Hatch for the biggest Superbike event in the world. This year around 65,000 people are expected to turn out for this actionpacked day, which is now the biggest motor sport event in the country after the Formula One Grand Prix. With three world-class British contenders, Carl Fogarty, who took the World Superbike crown in 1994 and 1995, Fogarty's Ducati team-mate. Neil Hodgson, a rising British star on the Superbike circuit, and Jamie Whitham, who came second in the 1996 British series, this is guaranteed to be an exciting event.

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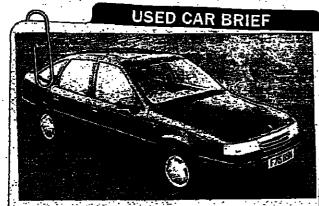
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CARMART: YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S NEW, AND WHAT'S USED, ON THE FORECOURTS



VAUXHALL CAVALIER DIESEL The Cavaller armed in shownoms in 1988 and was replaced by the Vectra in 1995. It earned its sours as a workhorse among company car fleets. Available as a four-door saloon and five door hatch, but not as an estate. The 1.7-litre normally aspirated diesel, and turbocharged diesel which uses an isuzu engine, offer reliable and frugal afternatives to the petrol cars.

Watch out for problems with the engine, including blown head gasket

Check the steering is precise and responsive and that the car does not pull

INSURANCE: Cover from A4 Insurance (0800 444777) on a 1993. Erwoy 1. 7-lifte diesel

to one side, as steering rack faults
are a common Cavaller problem.
Front disc brakes also wear and

need to be checked, and ensure there are no alternator and starter

costs a 55-year-old professional, male or female, with full no. claims bonus living in Winchester, £154 a year fully comprehensive. A 22-year-old male, living in South Londan, with ene-year no claims pays £630 a year fully

rold female pays £546...

Expect to psy, around £2,500 for a 1988 Freg 1.7 L diesel four door, £4,500 for a

PRICES:

1992 Freg 1.71 dieset £4.200 for a 1991 Freg 1.71 dieset fins door haben £4.800 for a 1992 Freg 1.71 turbodieset four-door, £6.500 for a 1992 Kreg 1.7 CD

turbodiesel four-door and £12,000 for a 1995 Nieg CDK turbodieselfive door rietch.

makes on excellent value for money argument. The extensive Variable dealership chain means the car is easy to maintain, and parts are cheap, as are service costs. When this out of ten a Counter will offer about of ten a Cavaller will offer depend

able motoring with economy of around 45mpg Power specing is a must oil diesel engined cars which front, so seek out post 1991 cars with power steering as standard. Of the two 1.7 litre diesel angines the Turbo is the one to go for. Bright colours such as red, or metallic, will help when you co

SAFETY:
The Cavalier is exect
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side the Toyota Carine and Mazda
626, better than the Rows
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REPLACEMENT PARTS (prices including VAT from Glassma Clutch assembly £273; full exhaust £265; rear dampers £30; front brake pads (able set) £48; alternator £291 (exchange); starter motor £311 (exchange);

The classic complaint about diesels is that they are sluggish. The 1.7-litre turbodiesel Cavaller will reach close to 110mph and cover 0-80mph in under 13 seconds, so that argument is nearly countered. Capable, reliable, if slightly dowdy, the diesel Cavaller, especially the Turbo, is a sound option for motorists likely to do filight trilleague.

ROADTEST

7 ou could become paranoid driving this car. Everywhere you go. people stare. At traffic lights in town, pedestrians and other drivers gaze remorselessly: in quiet country lanes, villagers gawp as you pass by.

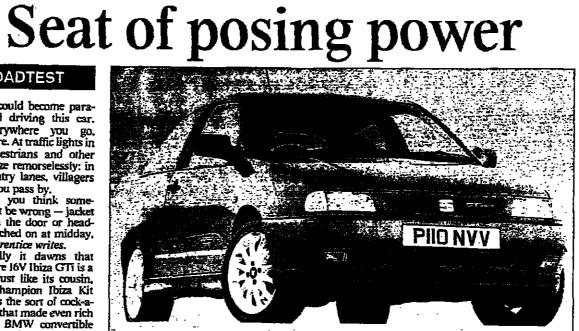
At first, you think some thing must be wrong — jacket trapped in the door or head-lights switched on at midday, Eve-Ann Prentice writes.

Eventually it dawns that Seat's 2-litre 16V Ibiza GTi is a show-off, just like its cousin, the rally-champion Ibiza Kit Car. It has the sort of cock-ahoop style that made even rich kids in a BMW convertible turn their heads.

I decided to let it loose in poseur's paradise and took a mooth round London's Covent Garden on a rare fine evening. Even there, the Ibiza drew envious glances.

With Seat currently defending its F2 world rally championship title, the lbiza range has helped the company reach new heights in sales in Britain: after a record year in 1996, sales in the first four months of this year were already !1 per cent higher than the same period last year.

There are five models in the Ibiza 2-litre GTi range, ranging from £11,595 for the 8V Cupra Sport to £15,995 for the 16V with Recaro seats. All are hot and sticky - hot hatches that stick to the road. The £15,600 version that I drove was supremely comfortable on



Strong-selling Ibiza GTi's looks attract stares in town, country and Covent Garden

grip successfully as the throttle

One quibble is that the

designers have taken Tony

Blair's exhortations for motor-

ists to lead greener, healthier

lifestyles a little too much to

heart. It is impossible to open

the ash tray and engage first

gear simultaneously, since the

gear lever rams into the ash-

SEAT IBIZA 2.0 GTI 16V

Engine: Four-cylinder, 150bhp, 1984cc. Performance: 0-62mph. 7.9 secs, max speed, 134mph. Economy: 23.7mpg urban. 44.1mpg extra-urban. Equipment: Air conditioning, ABS, traction control. Price: £15.600.

long drives, wonderfully manoeuvrable in town and exhilarating on the open road, with its 150 horsepower able to punch the car from 0-62mph in 7.9 seconds and on to a top speed of 134mph.

Because this car is so lively it does, however, suffer mildly from torque steer, where the front wheels struggle to find

fifth blocks access to the cigarette lighter, so presumably the idea is to discourage smoker-drivers. Nonetheless, the interior is remarkably roomy for a car

just 3.8 metres long, and the boot easily coped with luggage that similar-sized cars have found hard to swallow. And an intriguing digital

tray. Similarly, it is impossible

to change from first to second

with the ashtray exposed, and

display on the dashboard can be programmed to display average speed, fuel consumption and mileage - a sobering reminder of how driving carefully dramatically reduces fuel costs, although this is a beautifully economical hot-hatch.

SPARE PARTS

AA's disability action

■ THE AA is to help disabled people by developing a multi-lingual card for disabled people travelling to other EU countries. Eve-Ann Prentice writes.

The aim is to bypass the problem of running up against police and parking officials abroad who do not understand that the Orange Badge scheme entitles visiting disabled drivers to the same concessions as locals.

More than six million people in Britain have a disability that makes it difficult or impossible to use public transport, and most say they would be housebound if they could not use their cars.

The new card is one of a range of services for disabled people that will be exhibited at the Mobility Roadshow ir. Berkshire this weekend. The show, the world's biggest motoring event for disabled people, is open until tomorrow at the Transport Research Laboratory, Crowthorne.

Over 60,000 visitors are expected to attend the show. where more than 300 vehicles adapted for disabled people will be on display. Entrance to the show is free. Visitors will also be able to

get information about a new get-you-home service for users of electric wheelchairs and pavement vehicles, AA Mobility Assistance, the first service of its kind in the UK, has been developed in collaboration with Tripscope, a charity specialising in travel advice

New powerplant for 911

IT MAY look the same and sound the same. But the new Porsche 911 has a different beast in the engine bay.

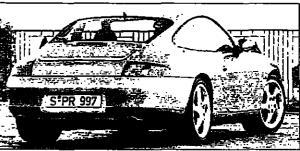
The revamped 911, to be launched in September, has been completely redesigned for the first time in its 34-year history. The big difference is that the new 911 comes with a water-cooled flat-six engine. ending the era of its air-cooled predecessors.

The characteristic Porsche engine sound stays unchanged in the new model, which will be launched at the Frankfurt Motor Show in September, With the emphasis on ever-greener driving. prospective buvers will be pleased to learn that this car is quieter and cleaner than its forebears. This is despite an increase in power output to 300bhp.

The new six-speed manual transmission is more compact and lighter, despite adaptation to the higher power, and the Tiptronic S automatic transmission now has five speeds.

The car will punch from 0-60 in five seconds, and has a top speed of 180mph.

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hits the floor.

■ BIG. LOUD and gleaming, the Americans have arrived. and none states its case louder than the Chrysler Jeep Cherokee.

The 4-litre Ltd Cherokee offroader has been consistently popular since its launch, and the two top-of-the-range models, the Ltd Leather and the Ltd SE (Special Equipment) have been the real volume sellers, Vaughan Freeman writes. The Cherokee has carved a niche for itself as a four-wheeldrive machine that

also succeeds as a powerful status symbol, reports CAP Black Book.

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The Cherokee is not as cumbersome as its competitors, but the drawback is that it offers limited luggage room. Second-hand prices for the Cherokee, once strong, have slipped badly in recent months. Best buy is the 1994 4litre Ltd with leather upholstery. Expect to pay around £14,000 for one with 50,000 miles on the clock.

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Russell Hayes tries out a powerful BMW-powered toy now on sale at a London emporium for spies

Three-wheeler from the Bond bug shop

proof vest, an underthree-wheeled car? London's Spyrnaster store, famous for its off-the-peg espionage equip-ment, is branching out into the motor business by stocking the Scorpion, a 130mph rocket-sled powered by a BMW motorbike

"We just looked at it and thought it was state-of-the-art, so we should sell it." says director Jeremy Marks. And so the Scorpion can now be ordered from the Park Lane emporium and delivered within six weeks, from £24,500 on the road.

It is made by Grinnal cars in Worcestershire and can be bought as a kit or fully built to Spymaster spec to drive away.

In truth the Scorpion is more motorbike than car. Remove the fibreglass and Keylar bodywork and you find a BMW superbike lurking underneath, with a twoperson tub located where the handlebars should be.

The 1100cc four-cylinder engine transmits 90bhp to the rear wheel. This is adequate for a family saloon, but akin to jet propulsion for a three-wheeler that weighs around 400kg.

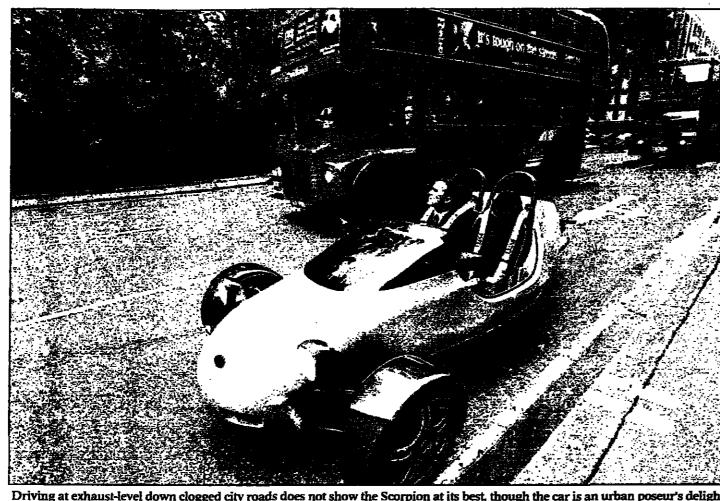
The engine begs to be revved up to its limit of nearly 9,000rpm, and in standard form will accelerate you from standing to 60mph in a claimed five seconds. *Does it shift?" asked a man in a Mercedes on London's Euston road.

"As fast as that." said my passenger. Renzo. Spymaster's demonstration driver, pointing at the exhaust pipe of the Porsche 928 in front. If this isn't enough, then exhaust and engine modifications can boost power to 130bhp.

But does it fall over round bends? How dare you. Unlike certain other three-wheelers, this has a pair of wheels at the front, rather than the back and there's virtually no sensation of body roll at all.

The Scorpion is a small but sophisticated little beast, with a spaceframe chassis, aluminium wheels and wishbone suspension at

There is a conventional clutch pedal but the gearchange is sequential, motorcycle-style, so that each forward movement of the gearlever



Driving at exhaust-level down clogged city roads does not show the Scorpion at its best, though the car is an urban poseur's delight

GRINNAL SCORPION

Engine: Four-cylinder, 1.1-litre, giving 90bhp at \$.500rpm. Transmission: Five-speed gearbox, electric reverse optional. Performance: 0-60mph in 5 seconds, 130mph.

Economy: 60mpg.

Equipment: Adjustable pedals, four-point safety belts, cockpit cover.Price: £24.500.

selects another ratio. The gear position is indicated by a digital

BMW approves this use of its engine, and the Scorpion can be serviced at any BMW bike dealer. Thrift will not be a priority for the buyer but it qualifies for motorcycle road-tax rates and can be insured

as a I.I-litre car. You don't have to take a motorcycle test to drive it, and if you are worried about safety in such a sparse, low-slung machine, it meets German TUV crash standards as far as they go for this type of car. brakes fitted, but hefty discs front and rear stop the Scorpion well. Down in the cockpit the pedals

were wheeled up to meet the reach of my legs and the racing harness pulled right enough for me not to move. It is not unlike sitting low down in an undersized bathtub. Rear bumpers were on my eye

Flashguns went off from tourist buses and pedestrians stopped and smiled. Even one of London's harddriving couriers found time to stop and tell us he thought it was

Clunk the gearlever back once for first gear, give the engine a decent amount of revs and you're off:

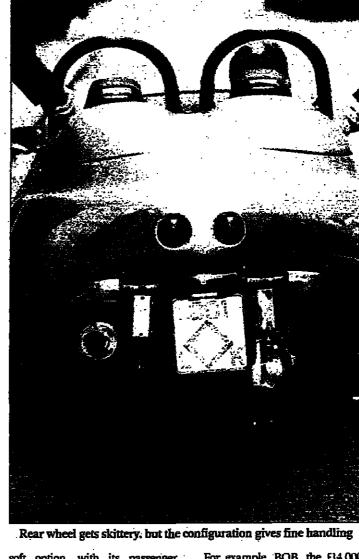
There are no airbags or anti-lock fishtailing up the road unless you pay the rear-wheel-drive Scorpion some respect.

> iven the amount of interest we created, I kept a lowish profile until we were out of London on the A40. Every high wall (and most of them seemed very high) was a chance to bounce off that fabulous BMW thrum. In any gear the engine pull is terrific.

You don't have to wear crash helmets and there isn't a radio, but it was huge fun provided you went fast enough to let the rain shoot

Viewed in motorcycling terms however, the Scorpion constitutes a

: 1



soft option, with its passenger space, room for a weekend bag above the engine and gusts of warm air from the front-mounted

The Scorpion is the nearest pymaster gets to a gadget for the hell of it. It has just taken on armour-plated cars for its "foreign and government clients" and is an agent for the awesome Hummer nilitary transport. There is a purpose to everything it sells, however odd.

For example, BOB, the £14,000 breathing observation bubble, may look like it's an underwater scooter from the puppet-series Stingray. but is currently being used by harbours to inspect the underside

Sadly for the Scorpion it is unlikely to appeal to just the sort of driver with £24,500 to burn, Middle Eastern car fanatics. "Apparently a convertible just gets too hot and you can't fit air conditioning."

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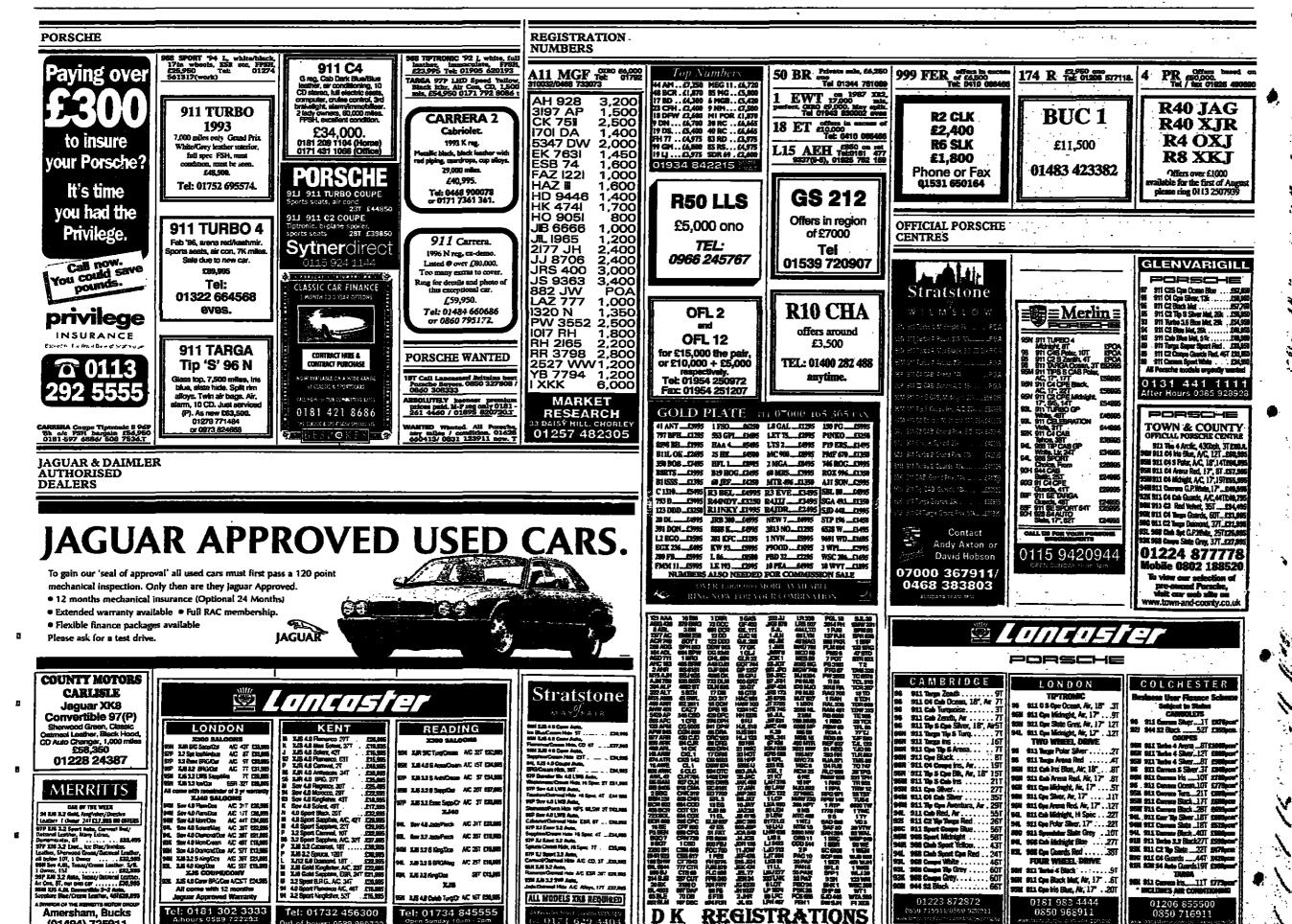
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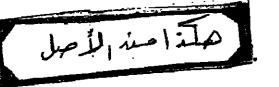
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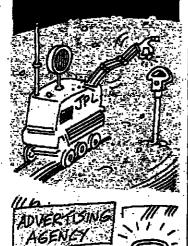




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Our driving competition reached its climax to the sound of Formula One engines, says Kevin Eason







Quality not quantity for

winner Stephen



Rigorous competition tests included driving the special skid car

or a man who confesses not to drive very much on business, Stephen Robson is a whizz. For the man from Lancashire is this year's winner of The Times/Lease Plan-Company Car Driver of the Year

And nobody was more surprised than Stephen when the results were announced at the event's gala dinner at Sedgebrook Hall in Northamptonshire after the tense final day's competition on the famous race track at Silverstone, home of this weekend's British Grand Prix.

Examiners from the Silverstone Driving Centre reckoned this year's batch of 12 finalists, including three women, the best in the four years of the competition so far. Stephen was the pick of the bunch.

"I simply couldn't believe it," said the depot manager from Feather-stone. I knew I had performed well. I felt my driving was smooth and I didn't get flustered."

The final was the culmination of nearly three months of searching for Britain's top company motorist. More than 100 companies and 300 motorists — from sales reps to vets - entered what has become the nation's best contest for company

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car drivers. At stake was a top prize provided by Lease Plan, one of Europe's top vehicle leasing companies.

We took drivers to six regional locations where they were tested on every facet of the driving skills they need daily in their jobs as company

Chris Howell, managing director f Drive Tech, one of the country's top driver training schools, says: "Our examiners were fascinated to

learnt at the regional events into an intensive eight-hour day with the stakes raised to include high-speed work on the Silverstone circuit.

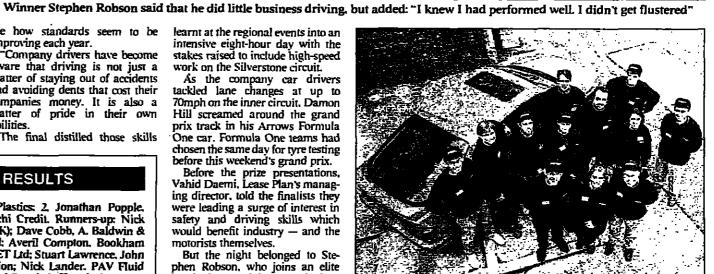
aware that driving is not just a matter of staying out of accidents As the company car drivers tackled lane changes at up to and avoiding dents that cost their companies money. It is also a 70mph on the inner circuit, Damon matter of pride in their own Hill screamed around the grand prix track in his Arrows Formula The final distilled those skills One car. Formula One teams had chosen the same day for tyre testing before this weekend's grand prix.

see how standards seem to be

improving each year.
"Company drivers have become

Before the prize presentations, Vahid Daemi, Lease Plan's managing director, told the finalists they were leading a surge of interest in safety and driving skills which would benefit industry - and the motorists themselves.

But the night belonged to Stephen Robson, who joins an elite band who can claim to be the best at the wheel in British industry.



Safe drivers all — competition finalists at the Silverstone circuit

COMPETITION RESULTS

Winner, Stephen Robson, Linpac Plastics: 2, Jonathan Popple, Denplan; 3, April Carrington, Hitachi Credit, Runners-up: Nick Williams-Howes, Equifax Europe (UK); Dave Cobb, A. Baldwin & Co Ltd: Chris Hollands, Permabond: Averil Compton, Bookham Technology Ltd; Gail Summers, ITNET Ltd; Stuart Lawrence, John German; Gary Slade, Sitel Corporation; Nick Lander. PAV Fluid Handling; Graham Edwards, National Starch & Chemical.

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Call the new DVLA Registration Hotline quoting Ref. T1207, with your cheque book, Visa or MasterCard handy. Lines prefixes are also available 01792 77 33 66 are open 9.00am to 5.00pm from £399, with J, K, L, M, 01792 77 33 66 Monday to Friday.

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نعلدًا من المذهل

Richard Bremner on the powerful new Quattroporte — the Latin firm's latest attempt to leave its troubled past behind





Big saloon looks almost dull at first, but this belies the striking Maserati grille, subtleties like the rear bodywork and the tidiness of its proportions. Interior is sheer Italian opulence, with room for four adults to sprawl comfortably

opulent cars. Fast, yes — Ferrari and Lamborghini are testament to that — and small and economical too, but if it's a super luxury saloon that you're after, it's Germany and Britain that usually supply the

But one Italian saloon, a Maserati, no less, provides a tempting and decidedly individual alternative. The Quattroporte - it means, rather unromantically, four doors has been around for a couple of years, and a few have crept on to British roads, powered by a potent turbocharged V6. But now a new version, propelled by a twin-turbo V8, has arrived with a stack of improvements that have been paid for with Fiat money.

Unlike Jaguar, Mercedes or BMW saloons, the Maserati is produced in tiny numbers. So if nothing else, you're guaranteed exclusivity for your £57,995. The V6, still available, is yours for £49,995. What you're also promised, now Fiat's quality-control engineers have combed through it. is a car of higher quality.

Much needed, you'd think, if you'd driven one of the early

Vốs, which suffered fit, finish and electrical problems that you wouldn't expect in a £15,000 car, let alone a £50,000

Maserati without the unreliability

one. Maserati has often got away with a gambler's approach to quality control because their buyers have tended to see such foibles as

But these days, few people view a two-hour wait on the hard shoulder for the recovery truck as an amusing eccentricity. Fiat beefed up up the body shell to banish the rattles and squeaks that subtly flexing bodywork can generate, and redesigned the rear doors to improve their fit.

Electrical equipment and interior trim have also been worked over, and the car seems more tightly assembled and better detailed. There's still a way to go - the holes let into the dashboard's wood trim for the air vents look like they were cut by inebriates, and the swivelling map-reading light was frozen in its socket in the car I tried. Mercedes quality engineers are not going to lose sleep over this Latin rival.

But such practical considerations are far from your mind

Quattroporte. A big conventional saloon, it strikes you as almost dull at first, but in time its appeal grows. The Maserati grille is striking, and subtleties like the shape of the bodywork over the rear wheels, the quadruple exhausts and the tidiness of its proportions appeal.

It's the Quattroporte's interior that delivers the real impact, however. This is latin lavish at its best, even if it does stray toward the vulgar in places. It's roomy too — four full-size adults can happily sprawl. Air conditioning, electrically adjustable seats and an ambitious stereo are all there, as you'd expect, but what the keen might also notice is the six-speed manual transmission. There's a fourspeed automatic option available too, but the six-speeder hints at the Maserati's decidedly sporty, character.

A V8 sounds promising for motive power, but when you discover that it has twin turbochargers, twin intercool-

when you first confront the Quattroporte. A big convenerable that the Modenese engineers aren't messing about - this car can explode to 60mph in under 5.8 seconds, and top speed is an astonishing 168mph.

Such is the docility and quietness of the engine that such possibilities seem outlandish at first; the V8 is no more than brisk if you're gentle with accelerator and don't rev it. But allow the revcounter needle to climb past 3500rpm and the Maserati simply bounds forward - and keeps on bounding as you take each gear — even sixth. It doesn't take long to realise that you're sitting in a four-door supercar. It all happens so smoothly too, the V8's hum hardens to no more than a silken beat when it's worked

Unfortunately the car is less than silken on undulating roads. It is just too big and heavy for the suspension to keep it fully under control. Despite its electronically adjustable shock absorbers, the

thing starts to heave about like a dinghy in a swell. Pleasingly precise steering compensates to a degree, as, on dry roads, does the generous road-holding. In the wet, hard throttle-use makes the rear end slide sideways. Traction control ought to be standard on a car this expensive and this fast.

The Quattroporte is not really at the cutting edge of technology though, and for many, that will be part of its

If buyers can overlook irrita-tions like the badly positioned clutch pedal, the dated control layout and the slightly underdeveloped suspension, they will enjoy an astonishing performer of great character and exclusivity. Maserati plans on selling just 15 here this year. It should have no trouble.

automatic, £59,795.

On July 1, re-sponsibility for Maserati's future passed from Fiat Auto to Ferrari Spa. sound like a trivial detail of industrial bureaucracy, but it bodes well for Maserati's future. Though owned by Fiat, Ferrari operates all but

ndependently. The two companies will not compete — Maserati fits beneath Ferrari in the pecking order — but Maserati will benefit from Ferrari's engi-

neering skills. Maserati emerged in 1926. and for more than 20 years, the Maserati brothers pro duced only racing cars. The zenith of its racing history came in 1957, when Juan

MASERATI QUATTROPORTE V8

Engine: 3217cc, 335bhp, 32-valve eight cylinder.

Economy: Urban: 11.2mpg. Extra-urban: 25.2mpg. Combined: 17.0mpg.

Performance: 0-62mph, 5.8 seconds. Maximum speed

Manuel Fangio won the

Price: V8 six-speed manual, £57,995; four-speed

Famous name set for Italian renaissance

grand prix world champion-ship in the famous 250F. In the same year it almost won the sportscar championship too, but for a catastrophic last race in Venezuela that saw all four of its entries wiped out in just a few minutes.

The cost of this, and other financial troubles, ended Maserati's official racing programme, the company choosing instead to concentrate on its road cars.

In 1968, Maserati joined forces with Citroen and entered a prolific period, the two overseeing the birth of the Indy. Bora, Merak and Khamsin supercars. But the French firm's financial troubles, and the 1973 energy crisis, soon spelt trouble. Maserati was to have been liquidated had not Argentinian entrepreneur Allessantiro de Tomaso stepped in with In 1982 Maserati launched

the Biturbo, a compact twodoor saloon powered by a turbocharged V6. The model re-established it as a maker of svelte, compact, rapid and sometimes spectacularly unreliable saloons. But the firm was stuck recycling the names, as it was unable to generate enough money to fund genuinely new models.

Maserati was absorbed by industrial giant Fiat in 1994, which was able to fund the launch of the new Quattroporte, and the made-over version we test here, as well as a new compé that will be unveiled next March.

Priced to sit between the most expensive Alfa GTVs (Fiat owns Alfa Romeo too) and the least expensive Ferraris, the new coupé is reported to be very handsome. It will be powered by the same V6 and V8 engines that are available in the Quattroporte.

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION Win a Jaguar XK 150 classic worth £30,000

r oday The Times gives you the chance to win a beautiful classic car, the Jaguar XK 150 coupe, pictured, in our exclusive competition. Just a glance is enough to understand why the British show such enthusiasm for classic cars. It is an instant head-turner. This distinct coupé has been mildly modified for the sporting driver. Finished in classic British racing green,

retrimmed in tan leather, it has walnut veneer dashboard and a stainless steel sports exhaust (it sounds magnificent). Add to all that a high standard of restoration, a boot badge boasting Jaguar's five 1950s Le Mans wins, a manual close ratio gearbox. handsome chrome wire wheels and louvred bonnet and you have a car that will be the envy of everyone you know.

For your chance to win this legendary classic, call our competition hotline with your answer to this question:

How many times did Jaguar win Le Mans in the 1950s?

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The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received. The lines will be open until midnight on Monday July 14. Normal Times Newspapers compession rules apply. 0891 calls cost 50p per minute. • Car kindly supplied by The Garage on the Green, Fulham, London, retailers of fine classic and modern vehicles, Enquiries: 0171-384 1100

CHANGING TIMES



BMW adds six inches for the luxury-length limousine

The L on the boot-lid badge of BMW's longest car tells you it is a smidgeon under 17ft long, with a price tag and a list of costly options to match its extravagant luxury-limousine dimensions.

The L is some half a foot longer than the base 7-series saloon, and it is a costly extra. Those extra six inches add more than £7,000 to the onthe-road price of the 740iL, bringing it to an impressive E57,700.

And that is without the worth of extras that festooned our test car, which included £3,355 worth of satellite-linked navigation system, £1.200 alloy wheels, £840 hi-fi, and the E1,305 electronic damper control system. The result is a total asking price closer to £66,000.

It is a lot of money, but then it is a lot of car. The toys are impressive, such as weathersensitive windscreen wipers that detect how much rain is falling and control the wiper's accordingly.

The buttons that decorate the dashboard and centre console should keep even the most inquisitive five-year-old busy for an aftermoon. The genius of the 740iL though, what makes it such a

Vaughan Freeman discovers why an ordinary 7-series is not enough

BMW 740IL

Performance: Top speed electronically limited to

Economy: 14.5mpg in town, 30.4mpg motorway

driving, 21mpg overall.

Standard equipment: Air conditioning, driver,

automatic stability control and traction to avoid

Price: £57,700 on the road, £66,000 as tested with

passenger and side airbags (mounted in doors), cruise control, remote central locking, electric windows all

round with anti-trap, electrically operated headlight

adjustment, leather uphoistery, power steering, walnut wood trim, electronic immobiliser with passive arming,

wasting, creamy, cossetting car to drive all day, every day, is its ride, and its eightcylinder, 32-valve, 4.4-litre

BMW's 7-series range is the biggest-selling eight-cylinder car in Europe. It is a reflection of the BMW engineering strat-egy that, for all the environmentally sound drift towards smaller cars with smaller engines, there is no substitute for litres. The V8 powerplant turns out 286bhp, which on paper means little. On the

155mph, 0-60mph in 7 seconds.

optional equipment.

road it makes for an engine so irritatingly quiet that the only way to tell it is running is by

looking at the rev counter. On the move, motorway speeds are reached with the car barely warming to its task. During an 800-mile European jaunt, speeds far in excess of the UK speed limit could be legally maintained with absolutely no stress. The engine is matched to an automatic gearbox, which delivers that power responsively, and allows such a big car (it weighs close to two

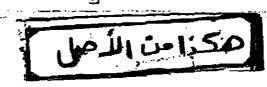
out problems, managing from 50mph to 75mph in seven seconds.

Those who nevertheless yearn to use their left hand can switch instantaneously from fully automatic to Steptronic transmission, which in effect offers manual selection without a clutch. But the engine offers so much torque that for most driving the "ordinary" automatic is

more than adequate. The huge seats in the front mean big distances are not a problem, while rear seat pasngers have enough space for a five a side footie match.

In a world of anonymous

motoring the 740iL is also entertaining. Sipping coffee at an autoroute stop south of Paris, a gaggle of Dutch schoolboys stopped to droot at the car, intrigued as much by the dashboard-mounted TV and navigation system, as by the car's length and opulence. BMW launched its V8 engines in 1992, drastically uprated them in 1996, and close on 200,000 have been sold. Little wonder. For those who perch high enough up the corporate ladder for the 740iL to be on their shopping list, it must make a sound value formoney argument, despite the



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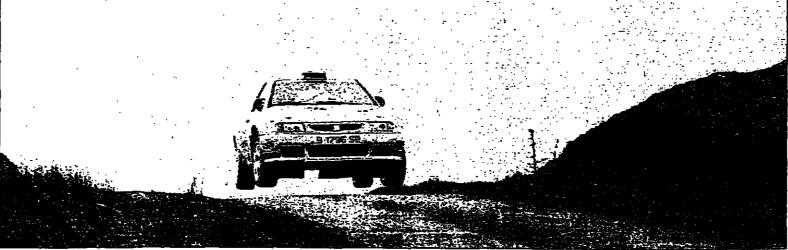
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Eve-Ann Prentice joined Seat's test team in Donegal, but then got caught up in sectarian violence



Barbara Armstrong launches the Ibiza into space after careering over a ridge. The road was no wider than a dirt track and little better paved

Troubled tale of two Irish rallies

Then Barbara Arm-strong says, This is dangerous". you believe her. Hurtling with the Seat works driver at up to 100mph on a bumpy road no wider than a donkey cart in the Donegal wilderness should provide enough excitement for anyone in one day,

So after going along for the ride as Seat pushed its rally cars to the limit. I sended down for what should have been a quiet, comfortable drive back to the airport. Except that the airport was in Belfast and we had to cross the breadth of Ulster on one of the most violent days of the Province's recent past.

As we passed through Londonderry, skirting charred cars and buses, never knowing whether the next bend in the road would be blocked by burning barricades, and sensing the palpable animosity of knots of angry young men, any fears about riding in Seat's rally cars paled into insignificance.

Seat press officer Lisa Dickson was in the driving seat for the return journey as we nervously edged past two burnt-out cars that all but blocked our path while morose youths stared from the shelter of a graffiti-scrawled wall. Her mobile telephone rang. It was her mother: all is well. Dickson assured her as we scraped through the barricade. Next day, back at her office in Milton Keynes, she admits her sleep that night had been plagued by

nightmares. Muckish Mountain near Dunfan-



Eve-Ann Prentice remains smiling in the face of adversity

aghy in northern Donegal is a favourite testing ground for rally cars, and Seat, currently world rally championship leaders, seized the opportunity to put two of its Ibiza Kit cars through their paces there this week. The team took part in a rally it sponsored in North Armagh last weekend, and is due to take part in the Sligo Rally tomorrow.

The timing seemed perfect, except that it also coincided with a flashpoint in the Northern Ireland marching season. Violence flared across the province, just as the 14strong Seat group set out for Donegal across the border in the Republic of Ireland.

Most of the Seat group made the journey from Belfast without incident last Sunday. In the evening, however, news of spreading vio-

photographer who could not get past burning barricades in Londonderry. The violence spread across the border, with stone-throwing and a spate of car hijackings in Letterkenny, just down the road from the Seat testing ground.

n Monday morning we set out for a mist-shroud-ed Muckish Mountain. A wicked little grin apneared on Barbara Armstrong's face as she launched the Seat Ibiza into space after careering to a ridge. The road, no wider than a dirt track and little better paved, raced to meet us in a blur reminiscent of the images on a motor racing computer game. Except in a computer game your stomach isn't left so far behind that it makes the big dipper at Blackpool



Rioting after Drumcree meant a fraught journey back to Belfast

The aim was to torture the two rally cars in an attempt to get steering, suspension and performance to a peak of near-perfection. especially since Armstrong's Ibiza had a new engine. She completed the Scottish Rally without a starter motor. This was only the third test session the Seat Cupra Sport rally team had held: "Renault is out all the time, all they do is test, test, test,"

says an engineer. Armstrong is not taking part in the world championship, but is lying third in the women's class of the British championships, which continue with the Ulster Rally at the beginning of August. "She is seeing the red mist this morning," said one of the mechanics as she launched her first automobile long-jump

record attempt of the day.

Armstrong was not happy with the set-up of the car, and tyres were changed, brakes tweaked and suspension twiddled before I was allowed on board. "This would not go straight on the MI," said a suspension expert who had gone for a ride with her.

"I would like it to be less sensitive," said Armstrong, "it is very, very sensitive; it's got a million miles to go yet." So what does she like about her car? "The colour, it's so sexy-looking," she said. "But driving like this is dangerous, you would not go like this in a raily." They have days of testing ahead, though, and the point is to be as critical as possible to hone the cars

to their best. The staccato revving of the engine ripped apart the silence of the pear bogs and carried all the way down to the village of Dunfanaghy. Al-though the road was supposed to be closed, a few villagers were lured by all the excitement, and ventured to the fringes of the test area. It was impossible to keep everyone at bay. especially a string of horse riders who crossed the bog and paraded their spooked ponies past the miniencampment of Seat trailers and

But the most disturbing interloper was a farmer on his tractor, carrying a child and two dogs as passengers, who trundled out of the mist and on to the rally test track into the path of the second Ibiza,

being driven by Kenny McKinstry. McKinstry's superlative reactions ensured a collision was avoided and the only casualty was the Tarmac,

scarred by burning rubber.
The relief was minimal, however, compared with to the sense of security Dickson and I felt on reaching Belfast's airport terminal. The rest of the Seat team stayed in Donegal and we heard the alarming news on the radio that during our drive from Donegal, more than 200 cars had been hijacked.

IN BRIEF

HELLO and goodbye to the Spectre, Britain's latest forforn attempt to build a supercar. The gorgeous, sleek model is set to star in a new Hollywood movie starring Jerry Hall -but the two celluloid Spectres might be the last sighted, for the manufacturer, based in Poole, Dorset and once backed by five-times Le Mans winner Derek Bell, was reported to have folded this week. Only 25 Spectres were sold in spite of its roaring performance and a price of £20,000 less than a Ferrari F355.

GOODBYE too to the hap less Ford Probe, which is being killed off. Made in the USA since 1994, the car failed to capture public imagination even though its pedigree and performance were as good as most models in the sector. Ford now believes that it will have the coupé sector sewn up instead with its new, little Puma and a forthcoming model based on the Mondeo's much-praised chassis.

MAZDA'S new 626 range will start at £13,960 on the road and top out at £17,960 for the plush 2.05E version. Available, for now, only as a fine door hatchback, the 626 five-door hatchback, the 626 gets air conditioning, power steering and electric windows all-round as standard in every version while better security brings a bonus with group ratings down from 14 to 8E.

II-AND YOU think your business has got problems? Chrysler in the United States this week recalled 876,200 vehicles — the biggest product recall in motor industry hist-ory. Chrysler brought back pick-ups, people-carriers in-cluding the Voyager, Jeep Cherokee and Wrangler models for a variety of reasons in seven different recalls.

ALEX "Rivers" Fletcher, 85, one of the oldest racing drivers in Britain, sold his 1934 Alvis Speed 20 tourer for £31,050 in a Sotheby's car auction at the RAF Museum, Hendon, north London. It was bought by Peter Thompson, who wants to race the car. His wife is the daughter of Arthur James, who founded the Alvis Owners Club.

